

MANAMA (AP) — A pan-Arab ministerial committee will meet Sunday in Baghdad at Iraq's request to review options as Iran threatens another land offensive, Arab sources said. Kuwait announced its foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, would attend the meeting Sunday in Baghdad and, in Riyadh, sources said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal would also go. The committee also includes the foreign ministers of Morocco, Jordan, North Yemen and Tunisia, and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi. The Arab League announced Monday at its Tunis headquarters that Iraq had invited the committee to Baghdad. The Iranian minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, Mohsen Rafiq Dost, said Sunday a new offensive would be launched upon the expiration of a deadline for Iraq to meet Iranian demands. Mr. Rafiq Dost did not refer to the deadline or the demands, but the government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has steadfastly insisted that the Iraqi government be toppled.

Suspect Libyan found murdered
LONDON (R) — A wealthy Libyan businessman, out on bail pending trial in connection with guerrilla bomb attacks in London, has been shot dead by an assassin, police said Tuesday. The decomposing body of Ali Al Giahour, 45, was found in a flat in London's West End Monday after a neighbour complained about the smell. A police spokesman refused to comment on speculation that he had been killed by a Libyan death squad but said: "We do believe Giahour was lured to the flat where he died by his assassin." Mr. Giahour was charged with conspiracy to cause explosions after five bombs went off at Arab targets in London in March, one of them injuring 23 people in a crowded club. He was due to stand trial at London's Old Bailey Central Criminal Court with a second man. Mr. Giahour had to report to police twice a day under the terms of his bail. Police said they began looking for him after he failed to check in for a second time on Friday.

Jordanian team to attend London meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Five Jordanians have been invited to attend conferences of the four political parties in England. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that this is the first time Jordan has been invited to attend these meetings as observers. Dr. Jamal Sba'er will lead the Jordanian delegation which comprises of Dr. Ghazi Al Kassem, Dr. Faisal Kan'an, Mr. Waji Barakat and Mr. Waheb Sha'er.

'Tanker blast was not caused by mine'

BAHRAIN (R) — An explosion which badly damaged a Liberian tanker in the central Red Sea earlier this month was caused by a blast in one of its tanks and not by a mine, Lloyds shipping intelligence service reported from London Tuesday. The report, which Lloyds said was based on findings by U.S. navy divers, substantiates information from shipping and other sources in Gulf countries. The Aug. 5 explosion aboard the 41,435-ton Oceanic Energy, originally reported by its captain to have hit a mine, occurred in relatively deep water in the central Red Sea, an area previously thought clear of mines.

Kuwaiti leader to visit China

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliamentary leader flies to China Wednesday in the latest of a recent series of contacts aimed at forging closer links between the countries. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said National Assembly Speaker Mohammad Yousef Al Adnan will lead a parliamentary group on an eight-day visit at the invitation of the Chinese People's Congress (CPC). China is seen here as one of the most important countries supporting Third World and Arab interests.

Nigeria denounces leaders' visit

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria has denounced the visit to Israel by two prominent Nigerian tribal leaders. "The Nigerian government is embarrassed by the visit," Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari told a hastily convened press conference. "We disapprove of it," he said. "We do not agree that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, therefore any mission there has nothing to do with the federal government."

Bomb explodes outside Jewish bank in Paris

PARIS (R) — A bomb exploded outside a Jewish-owned bank in Central Paris early Tuesday, causing considerable damage but no injuries, police said. The bomb went off outside the Bank Leumi, in the busy Boulevard des Capucines near the Place de l'Opera. Police said a large number of people were in the area at the time and it was a miracle no one was hurt. Police said no one had claimed responsibility for the blast, which damaged the front of the bank and a car parked outside. The area was sealed off and experts sifted the wreckage for clues to the bomb's origins.

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Pro and anti-Syrian forces clash in N. Lebanon
Tripoli militia fighting kills 30, wounds 190

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Rival militias allied and opposed to Syria battled with mortars, multiple rocket launchers and machineguns for the second straight day Tuesday in Lebanon's northern port of Tripoli killing at least 30 people and wounding 190.

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Rival militias allied and opposed to Syria battled with mortars, multiple rocket launchers and machineguns for the second straight day Tuesday in Lebanon's northern port of Tripoli killing at least 30 people and wounding 190. In Beirut, police said they had received reports that as many as 60 people were dead and 200 wounded in the two days of fighting in Lebanon's second largest city, which is 80 kilometres north of the capital. Ambulance sirens echoed through this city of half a million inhabitants overnight and Tuesday morning. Overwhelmed hospitals appealed for blood donations and sent several victims to medical centres in neighbouring towns. "It was very loud," said a source at Thobaa Red Cross Centre in Tripoli, who declined to be named. "I've been here for four months. I think it's the worst day. I think the whole town didn't sleep."

Junblatt, Berri meet Khaddam as Gemayel, Assad plan summit

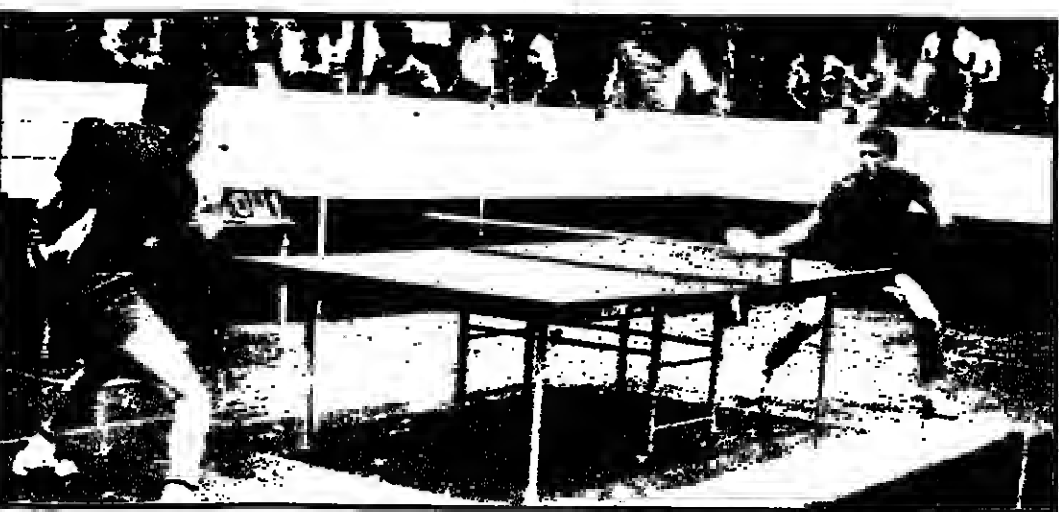
BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two powerful Lebanese leaders Tuesday held talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus amid reports of an impending summit between Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to advance Lebanon's stalled peace process. The Syrian News Agency (SANA), which reported Mr. Khaddam's meeting with Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Shiite Muslim Amal chief Nabih Berri, did not give details of the talks, but the talks came a day after a senior envoy of Mr. Assad met Prime Minister Rashid Karami and President Gemayel in Lebanon to push forward a stalled peace plan for the mountains around Beirut. Mr. Junblatt's mostly Druze PSP militia opposes the Lebanese army and mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militiamen along an eight kilometre line in the hills southeast of the capital. Fighting there has intensified in recent days, though PSP radio reported only exchanges of sniper fire Tuesday. Mr. Karami said after Monday's talks with Syrian envoy General Mohammad Kholi that Mr. Assad and Mr. Gemayel might meet in the next few weeks. But official Syrian news media made no mention of the possibility. Gen. Kholi's talks with Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Karami dealt with obstacles holding back the central mountains security plan. "Perhaps adequate solutions will be found," Mr. Kholi told reporters after the session. Beirut radio stations and newspapers said Tuesday that Gen. Kholi had assured Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Karami that Syria was determined to complete the defusing of violence to Lebanon to set the stage for the sharing of power between Muslims and Christians. The mountain security plan calls for deployment of mixed Druze and Christian army units along frontlines in the Shouf terrain to set up buffer zones between warring factions. It also proposes a phased process of reopening highways linking Beirut with Syrian-controlled north and east Lebanon and with the Israeli-occupied southern third of the country.

Egypt calls in experts to inspect 5 suspected mines in Suez Gulf

CAIRO (R) — Experts have been called in to investigate five possible mines found in the Gulf of Suez, military sources said Tuesday. "Lifting these objects requires experts and special equipment which he lack at present," a senior Egyptian army officer told reporters as a multinational fleet continued to scan the Red Sea and Gulf of Suez for mines. The officer, who asked not to be named, said the five objects were found in the southern sector of the Gulf of Suez. The Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted a military source as saying experts were expected to study them on Wednesday. Egyptian minesweepers have been operating in this area as part of the fleet hunting for mines which have damaged at least 17 ships since early July. Egypt suspects Libya and Iran of laying the mines, but both countries deny this. Egypt points to Libya. Egypt also pointed a strong accusatory finger at Libya Tuesday saying it was now nearly certain that the Libyans were responsible for the mining of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez. The military source, quoted by MENA, said, "Our suspicions are almost confirmed that the Libyan ship Ghat dropped the mines in the Red Sea." The source did not say whether the Cairo government had any firm evidence implicating the Libyans in the mine-laying.

Weizman, Hurwitz support boosts Labour's chances

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Efforts by Israel's Labour Party to form a government got a boost Tuesday when two small parties were quoted as saying they would not join a coalition led by the ruling Likud bloc. The Israeli press reported that former Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, head of the three-seat centrist Yahad Party, had said he would join a narrow Labour coalition if talks between Labour and Likud on forming a national unity government failed. Former Likud Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz joined him, telling the papers he would not take part in a narrow Likud-led coalition. Mr. Hurwitz won one seat in last month's inconclusive election on the ticket of his Ometz Party, which wants austerity measures to repair Israel's inflation-crippled economy. Israel Radio reported that some Likud leaders were demanding the coalition talks be stopped unless Labour abandoned all efforts to form a narrow-based government without Likud. Mr. Shamir has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Weizman for Wednesday and Likud legislator Ehud Olmert said that the media was "putting too much weight on Weizman's declarations. The talks are continuing with their ups and downs."



Jordan (right) meets Syria in Tuesday's contest for the third and fourth places in the mens class in the Arab Table Tennis Tournament in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Jordanian juniors win gold medal in Arab Table Tennis Tournament

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday won the gold medal in the junior class, silver in the women's class and bronze in the men's class in the Arab Table Tennis Tournament now going on in Amman. The gold medal was won when the junior team beat the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 5-0 in the final matches. Libya came third by beating Tunisia 5-4 and won the bronze medal as the UAE collected the silver medal. In the women's events, Jordan was beaten by Bahrain 3-0 in the finals. Jordan won the silver. Syria got the bronze when it beat Tunisia 3-1 in the final games. In the men's events, Saudi Arabia was Tuesday night meeting Iraq for the gold and silver medals but Jordan won the bronze medal by beating fourth-placed Syria. Wednesday will be a day of rest for the competitors, and on Thursday individual matches will be held at the Sports Palace of Al Hussein Youth City. This will be followed by doubles and mixed double matches.

Fahd says Saudi Arabia capable of defending itself

JEDDAH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said Tuesday his country would not allow any violation of its airspace or territorial waters and was ready to repel any attack. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the King Faisal Naval Base in this Red Sea port, said to be the biggest of its kind on the strategic waterway. U.S., British and French ships are currently working with the Saudi and Egyptian navies to sweep for mysterious mines in the area. "Saudi Arabia's policy is based on non-aggression... but, at the same time, it will not allow any violation or encroachment of its territorial waters," King Fahd said in his speech, carried by the Saudi Press Agency. "Saudi forces, be they naval, air or ground forces, aim at protecting Saudi people... but they also make anyone wishing to harm the kingdom realise that it is prepared to repel any attack," he added. King Fahd did not identify any potential aggressor. The agency also quoted the commander of the Saudi navy, Major-General Talal Salem Al Mufadda, as saying Saudi Arabia had taken delivery of ships including minesweepers from the United States to serve at the base. He did not say how many ships had arrived but said they were equipped with the most sophisticated sonar and early warning systems. Last Sunday, Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said the country planned to build its navy around the base. One would put to sea from the new King Fahd base on the Red Sea, the other would cover the Gulf from the King Abdul Aziz Base at Jubail north of the oil terminal of Ras Tannurah, he said.

PFLP says it plans to attend PNC conference

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a hardline faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has said that it will attend a forthcoming session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and confirm Yasser Arafat as PLO chairman whether or not mediation efforts to reconcile the PLO with Syria succeeded. Bassam Abu Sharif, the PFLP spokesman, also said he expects Algeria and South Yemen to make a final effort to reconcile the PLO and Syria before the planned session of the PNC next month. "We cannot allow the PLO to remain in paralysis. We want PLO units to return to activity and we are quite optimistic that all problems can be solved," he said. The PLO was split last year when Syrian-backed factions mutinied against Mr. Arafat. Fateh, the mainstream commando movement and Mr. Arafat's power base within the PLO, and four factions grouped in the Damascus-based "democratic alliance" patched up their differences in July after four months of talks, but many PLO officials say Syria is still seeking to oust Mr. Arafat. Abu Sharif, making his first visit to Mr. Arafat's Tunis headquarters in more than a year, said he had talks with leaders of Fateh, but did not meet Mr. Arafat himself, who has been in Saudi Arabia. The PFLP official arrived from Algiers where he took part in talks between Fateh and the "democratic alliance" to follow up their July 13 reconciliation accord. The meeting reaffirmed the need to hold the PNC, the PLO's parliament in exile, by mid-September in Algiers. Apart from the PFLP, the "democratic alliance" includes the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and two lesser organisations, the Palestine Liberation Front and the Palestinian Communist Party. Abu Sharif said the five groups were still planning to hold a "global Palestinian dialogue" with all PLO factions and the organisation's leadership before the convening of the PLO.

CONGRATULATIONS ALLIED ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES CO. CONGRATULATES

THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS. LOOKING FORWARD FOR THE COOPERATION BETWEEN JORDAN AND ROMANIA UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE WISE LEADERSHIP OF HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN AND HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT NICOLAE CAESESU.

Powerful explosion rocks Sidon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A powerful explosion shook this South Lebanese port at dawn Tuesday and police said the blast took place near Israeli positions at Mar Elias hill, east of the city. They said Israeli soldiers set off flares as they searched the area. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known and there was no word on casualties. Israeli occupation troops opened fire while patrolling the coast road between Sidon and Tyre Tuesday morning, police said. They gave no other details. The Israelis have isolated South Lebanon, by closing the only road linking it with the rest of the country, as part of a drive to stem frequent commando attacks against them and their local militia allies and are reportedly implementing a plan to divert Lebanese waters to northern Israel. Resistance fighters mounted three more operations Monday, police said. An Israeli vehicle was hit and its occupants wounded in a rocket and small-arms attack at dawn near the village of Hinniyeh, southeast of Tyre.

Education Ministry denies plans to curb students going abroad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — The Ministry of Education Tuesday denied knowledge of a reported government plan to restrict Jordanian students from going abroad for continuing their higher education in foreign universities. The ministry's secretary general, Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat, said the story is "not true" and he only learnt about it from the report published in the Sawt Al Shaab newspaper on Monday. The paper's report said that the ministry was contemplating a plan that would ban secondary school graduates from going abroad to continue their university studies if their Tawjihi average marks were less than the average accepted by Jordanian universities. The report said that this measure could be imposed in the coming academic year 1984/85. Also, the report said the ministry will take measures to stop all university correspondence courses, and will introduce regulations for stopping automatic promotion of students in the lower compulsory level, a practice followed by all schools in Jordan at present. The report said that the motives behind these measures are for developing Jordan's educational system and the reason for preventing students from continuing their education if they show poor performance in their secondary studies is economical. Every year, it said, large amounts of money flow out of the country to spend on students, most of whom are not qualified to continue their higher studies and the money could be put to better use in local development projects. The report said that students who show poor performance here are not expected to do well abroad.

Saudi leader proposes freeze on oil prices

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has proposed that oil prices be "fixed for a specific number of years" as a means of stabilising the world oil market in the interest of both producing and consuming countries. King Fahd's proposal was made in the course of a question and answer session with Saudi students broadcast live by the state-owned radio on Monday. "If prices were fixed for a certain number of years, perhaps we can have stability (on the world oil market)," the Saudi leader said in reply to a question from the Saudi students enrolled in colleges abroad and home for the summer. King Fahd said that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in which Saudi Arabia is the leading of 13 partners, was exerting "tremendous effort" to find alternative solutions for the present instability on the world oil market. King Fahd said he was hopeful that "world understanding" would be demonstrated in the quest for the solution which was not an easy task, he said, calling for OPEC solidarity in face of the crisis. OPEC had however succeeded in surmounting a similar situation and was sound to succeed again, the Saudi leader said. He referred to the OPEC decisions in March 1983 when OPEC fixed an aggregate ceiling of 17.5 million barrels daily for its 13 member states and slashed the price of the Saudi benchmark crude by \$5 to make it \$29 to the barrel.

Israelis flay politicians for failure to recognise depth of economic crisis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Top officials at Israel's Central Bank have expressed deep concern at the failure of political leaders to recognise the depth of the country's economic crisis and form a government to take quick action.

A series of interviews with officials on Monday, the officials said, had expected the recent economic fall in Israeli foreign reserves to be a temporary phenomenon. But, they said, the situation had become a permanent one since last month's inflationary general election. "The figures are shocking," said Israel's head of the Bank of Israel, "and the effect we have not been able to achieve. The various parties are still squabbling about issues, which in the current economic emergency situation, must be seen as marginal." It became clear that Israel's foreign currency reserves had fallen to \$670 million and that the \$351 million in official reserves announced by the bank, which stood at about \$2.3 billion, will be the so-called "minimum" level. Bank Governor Moshe Mandelbaum said the government

could have prevented the fall in reserves by taking out new foreign loans. But, he added, "we advised against it because taking loans will not solve our problems."

Banking sources said Israel recently had to pay extremely unfavourable interest rates on short-term loans from foreign banks and was not eager to seek more loans. Mr. Mandelbaum said it was essential for the government to cut spending immediately by \$1.5 billion — 11.5 per cent of its budget.

"These very massive cuts must include cuts in defence, welfare services and subsidies on basic goods and services," he said. Mr. Mandelbaum and Mr. Igra agreed that such steps would inevitably cause a significant rise in unemployment. Official figures published Monday showed unemployment had reached 85,000 or 5.9 per cent of the workforce, its highest level in three years.

Mr. Igra said the country could not afford another month of political uncertainty. Mr. Igra said Israel's balance of payments deficit was currently running at 4.5 to \$5 billion annually, \$1.5 to \$2 billion above its ability to finance from what he termed "stable sources of finance such as U.S. aid and other reliable sources."

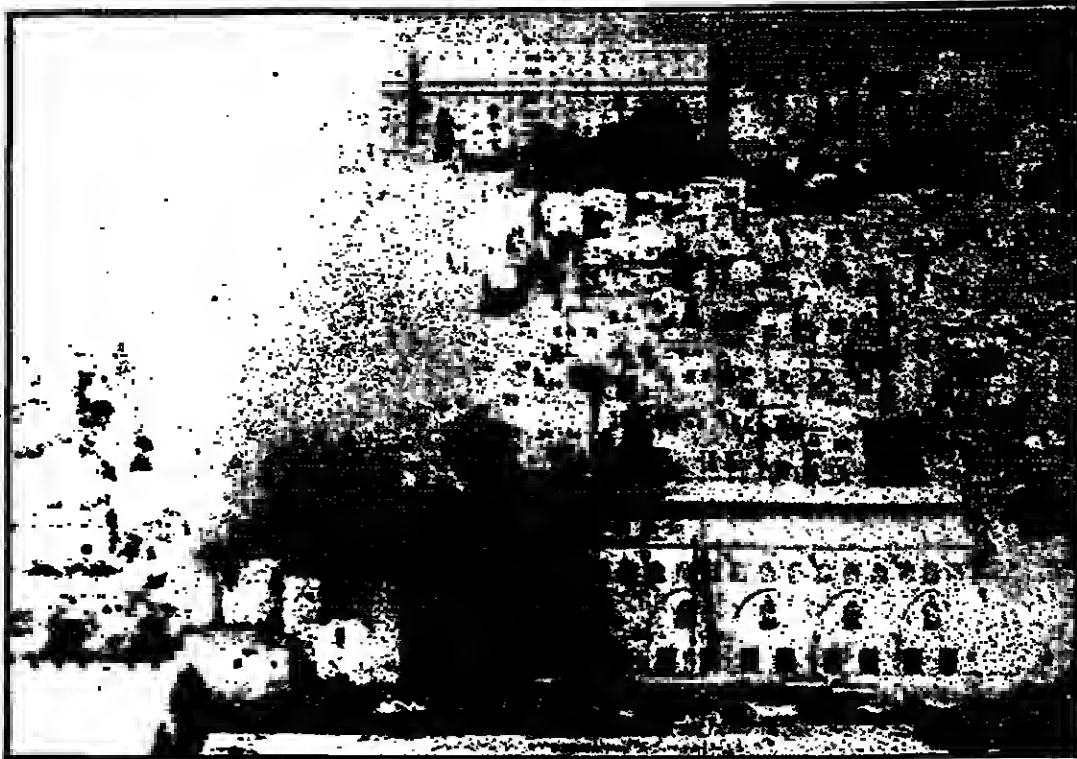
The extra \$1.5 to \$2 billion had to be raised through foreign loans. "This cannot continue. It has become too dangerous for the economy. The external debt of \$23 billion cannot go on growing without us doing anything about it," he said.

Labour Party leaders complain they are unable to enter into detailed economic discussion in their coalition talks because of fears that leaks could torpedo the effect of planned measures.

Parliamentary Finance Committee Member Ariel Weinstein of the ruling Likud Party told state television Monday night he had seen reports that the massive drain of reserves was continuing this month and totalled several hundred million dollars.

Finance Ministry officials declined to comment on his allegation.

Israel disguises decline in reserves by accounting trick, page 7.



Smoke billows from Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque after an arson attempt in Aug. 21, 1969 which damaged a large part of one of the holiest Islamic shrines in the world (File photo)

Muslims mark 15th anniversary of Jerusalem's Al Aqsa arson

AMMAN (Petra) — Monday, Aug. 21, marked the 15th anniversary of an arson attempt at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The burning of the holy shrine constituted a crime committed by Zionists on Aug. 21, 1969 as a manifestation of Israel's policy of demolishing the mosque and other religious places in the occupied Arab territory.

The burning of the mosque was not the first Zionist attempt aimed at Judaizing the Holy City but is seen as a link in a long chain of actions that illustrate Israel's expansionist designs and the criminal intentions against the Arabs and Muslims.

The burning of the mosque was an attempt by the Zionist leaders to obliterate Islamic cultural sites in the occupied Arab land, according to Petra.

Israel's ambitions in Jerusalem were exposed at an early stage following the 1967 war when the Knesset (Israel's parliament) met and decided to annex Jerusalem and apply Israeli laws on the Holy

City's population. The decision was the outcome of a long Israeli campaign to Judaize the city in defiance of U.N. Resolutions and Geneva Conventions, Petra said.

It said, "the burning of Al Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest Islamic shrines, was part of the Israeli Judaization policy, which went hand-in-hand with the expulsion of thousands of Arab families from their homes in Jerusalem."

The attempt at Al Aqsa Mosque was followed by violations at Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and other Christian and Muslim holy places in the occupied Arab territory.

On this occasion Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi issued an appeal to Arab states and the world at large to put an end to "Israeli atrocities" and all practices in Jerusalem and work towards rescuing the Arab population from occupation rule, Petra added.

In a statement issued in Tunis Sunday Mr. Klibi said that failure

to take action against Israel's policies is tantamount to condoning them.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) issued a statement calling on world nations in general and the United States in particular to take legal action and deter Israel's aggressive stands in Jerusalem and end its violations of the sanctity of the holy places there.

The statement described the burning of the mosque as representing the most bitter religious fanaticism and Zionist hatred towards the Islamic nation and constitutes a heinous crime against its holy shrines.

Sudan seeks dialogue with rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government Monday urged rebels in the country's south to abandon violence and open a dialogue with the government.

"The door will always be open for the outlaws of the southern regions to return home... and unconditional political dialogue is possible provided they refrain from violence," a statement from the presidency said.

Southern Sudan has been the scene of a campaign of anti-government violence by rebels demanding greater autonomy from the north. The statement, carried by the official Sudan News Agency, SUNA, said religious differences were not a factor in the rebellion in the south.

"Islam respects the freedom of non-Muslims and preserves the rights of individuals and respects minority rights," the statement said. "The application of Islamic Law has not been against human rights or progress," it added.

Iraq refutes report of chemical plant

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Iraq has categorically denied reports published by Newsweek magazine that Baghdad has completed work on a plant that could produce chemical weapons.

In a press statement issued here on Monday evening, Information and Culture Minister Latif Nasif Jasim said that "these fabrications were part of a campaign directed against Iraq and launched by quarters which back Zionism."

"They are reminiscent of a campaign that preceded Israel's air raid on the Iraqi nuclear plant in 1981," Mr. Jasim said.

"This campaign," the minister

added, "is designed as a support by Imperialist and Zionist circles for the Iranian regime."

On Monday, Newsweek quoted "U.S. and foreign" sources as saying Iraq, with the assistance of West German technicians, "is nearing completion of a huge plant capable of producing chemical weapons, possibly mustard gas."

Meanwhile in Bonn an economic ministry spokesman told a press conference Monday the West German government was pressing for an inspection by German experts of the controversial plant.

Jordan to take part in meeting on petrochemicals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism will take part in a four-day meeting on petrochemical industries, which will be held in Turkey on Sept. 10. Under the supervision of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Participants will discuss issues pertaining to cooperation in the field of petrochemical industries.

Exports of Gaza citrus registers sharp decline

AMMAN (J.T.) — Exports of citrus from the occupied Gaza Strip registered a sharp decline in the last season 1983/1984, compared with the season before, a report by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said Tuesday.

Gaza Strip's production of citrus in 1983/1984 amounted to 146,000 tonnes, of which 17,000 tonnes were only exported abroad, thus representing 11.6 per cent of the total production, compared with 26 per cent in the year before, according to the report of Citrus Producers Federation in Gaza Strip.

The report unveiled that citrus production is witnessing a continuous deterioration in view of the lack of wide marketing in the Arab World.

Khomeini's hawks purged by Majlis

By Amir Taheri

LONDON — In the power struggle within the Iranian parliament, the conservative ministers who support a final offensive in the four-year-old war with Iraq have suddenly been purged.

They have been replaced, against the wishes of Ayatollah Khomeini, by a group which will combine a more radical domestic policy with a search for peace abroad. Until Thursday Ali-Akbar Parvareh was minister of education and so confident of his position that he was planning a summer holiday in Syria. But within a few hours, he became virtually a non-person.

He was rejected by the newly elected parliament, and was told, ominously, that he must apply for a new passport and could not leave the country until "some points are ironed out".

Mr. Parvareh was a member of the conservative religious group known as the Hojatieh, or the Partisans of the Absent Imam.

Four other ministers, members of the same group, were also expelled from the parliament.

They all supported an even stricter Islamic policy at home and a new offensive in the war. The parliament's move has surprised most of the top religious leaders in Iran, including Khomeini. He had asked for a full endorsement of the cabinet.

Some MPs challenged Khomeini's authority to "dictate" to the parliament. One member said that Khomeini could only give his views and "extend to us the counsel he deems proper". — The Sunday Times.

Numeiri visits Romania

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri left Tuesday for an official visit to Romania, with a delegation including his ministers of finance, foreign affairs, and education. The Sudan

News Agency (SUNA) said Mr. Numeiri and President Nicolae Ceausescu will discuss bilateral relations and attend celebrations marking Romania's 40th National Day anniversary.

Libyan-Moroccan union to be voted on

RABAT (R) — A union treaty between Morocco and Libya signed in Algiers will be put to the vote in a referendum in Morocco on Monday night. King Hassan announced the treaty today.

The treaty, signed by King Hassan and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, is also due to be put to a referendum in Libya. It stipulates that the two countries will help to safeguard the sovereignty of the Arab world and will set up a series of joint councils for cooperation in defence, economy

and culture. In a midnight broadcast to the nation, the king said the Libyan-Moroccan union was open to all Arab and African countries regardless of their religion.

The Arabic text of the treaty read by Haj Muhammad Bahni, minister of state without portfolio, revealed that it considered aggression against either state as aggression against the other.

The implication appeared to be that Libya would support Morocco in the Western Sahara con-

flict since Rabat considers its forces in the desert are being attacked by guerrillas of the Polisario.

The "Arab-African union" as the king described the treaty will come into force after its adoption by referendum, considered a foregone conclusion by Moroccan political party leaders.

Its secretariat will have its headquarters in Tripoli with a Moroccan secretary-general, while the presidency will be held by each head of state alternately every two years.

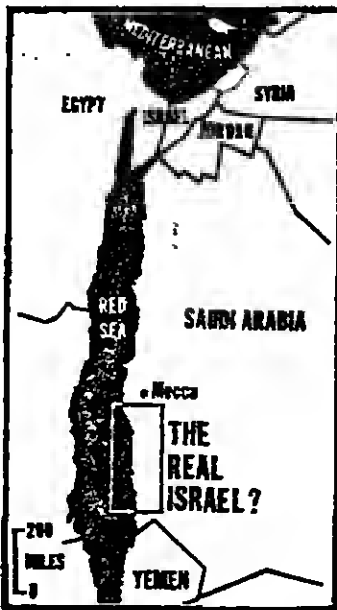
Israel theory greeted by criticism

LONDON — A storm of criticism has greeted the theory that the events of the 1948-49 Palestine war did not take place in the time but in southwest Arabia, last week, one of Israel's leading biblical scholars, Professor John J. Stenzel, outlined the theory as "unfounded and false".

Prof. Salibi argues that the "Jordan" in the Bible is not the river of Palestine but a ridge or escarpment inland from the Arabian Red Sea coast. Stenzel, who is a leading biblical scholar, disagreed. Specific evidence, the rabbi maintains, appears many times in the Bible in the form of "waters of the Jordan".

Another reader referred to "Jordan and its shore, to the edge of the sea of Kinneret". Prof. Salibi maintains this means a *hyrdn* by the oasis of Qurnah, or *Hyrdn*, east of Najran.

One reader raises the parting of the Jordan's waters for the Israelites. Prof. Salibi says: "The parting of the *hyrdn* waters along the escarpment can easily be done by



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Soviet Cultural Centre, 44203	
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Y.W.C.A., 41793	
Y.W.M.C.A., 664251	
Amman Municipal Library, 36111	
University of Jordan Library, 443555	
SERVICE CLUBS	Leas Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Leas Philadelphos Club. Meetings every second and third Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Philadelphos Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman, Elghub Circle, Tel. 815261.	
MUSEUMS	Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 31760.
CHURCHES	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luveth, 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Association (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 41559.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771531.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 771531.	
St. Epiphania Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.	
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisat, 663249.	
PRAYER TIMES	6:34 — Fajr
05:05 — (Sunrise) Shuruq	
11:37 — Dhuhur	
15:19 — 'Asr	
18:12 — Maghrib	
19:38 — 'Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT	This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53200, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS	06:00 — Cairo (MS)
06:40 — Karachi (PK)	
07:30 — Doha (QR)	
08:30 — Agaba (RJ)	
09:30 — Doha (QR)	
09:45 — Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)	
10:00 — Beirut (ME)	
10:30 — Athens (OA)	
12:35 — Muscat, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)	
14:40 — Kuwait (KU)	
15:10 — Jeddah (SV)	
16:00 — Cyprus (RJ)	
17:00 — Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (LA)	
17:10 — Paris, Damascus (AF)	
17:10 — Athens (OA)	
17:35 — Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)	
17:35 — London, Paris (RJ)	
17:40 — New York, Amsterdam, Madrid, Geneva (RJ)	
18:00 — Istanbul (RJ)	
18:00 — Rome (RJ)	
18:30 — Cairo (RJ)	
18:30 — Bangkok (RJ)	
19:25 — Beirut (ME)	
19:30 — Athens (OA)	
00:45 — Cairo (RJ)	
01:10 — Baghdad (RJ)	
DEPARTURES	06:10 — Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:45 — Cairo (RJ)	
07:30 — Beirut (ME)	
08:30 — Istanbul, Amsterdam (KL)	
09:30 — Cairo (MS)	
09:45 — Agaba (RJ)	
10:15 — Beirut (ME)	
10:30 — Athens (OA)	
11:00 — Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)	
11:00 — Karachi (PK)	
11:30 — Athens (RJ)	
12:30 — Belgrade, London (RJ)	
12:35 — Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)	
12:30 — Athens (OA)	
12:30 — Larnaca, Zurich (SR)	
12:30 — Athens (OA)	
12:30 — Cyprus (RJ)	
13:25 — Doha, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Muscat (GA)	
15:40 — Kuwait (KU)	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	Dr. Taysir Al Hudhud — 671246
Salman pharmacy — 36730	
Mishal pharmacy — 770910	
Nurza pharmacy — 30327	
Blood bank — 56196	
Shakib pharmacy — 669495	
Al Jihad pharmacy — 661547	
TAXIS	Barq taxi — 41299
Asfour taxi — 667079	
University taxi — 667079	
Tarek taxi — 23024	
Hadi taxi — 815406	
Shahid taxi — 92930	
HOSPITALS	Hussein Medical Centre — 813813-32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn — 44281-4	
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn — 42241	
Jabal Amman Maternity — 42362	
Malha, J. Amn — 36140	
Palatine, Shmeisat — 664171-4	
Shmeisat Hospital — 669151	
University Hospital — 845455	
Dr. Al-Shifa, J. Hussein — 667158	
Al-Musharraf Hospital — 66727-9	
The Islamic, Abdali — 665292	
Al-Ahli, Abdali — 664164	
Al-Muhajir, J. Amn — 77101-3	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh — 77111	
Army, Marka — 91611	
GENERAL	Jordan Television — 73111
Radio Jordan — 74111	
Ministry of Tourism — 42311	
Hotel complaints — 666412	
Price complaints — 661176	
Telephone: Information — 12	
Jordan and Middle East calls — 10	
Overseas calls — 17	
Cable or telegram — 18	
Repair service — 11	
MARKET PRICES	Upper/lower price in Jls per kg.
Apple (golden) — 300/250	
Apple (red) — 250/200	
Apple (stark) — 250/200	
Banana — 280/240	
Banana (Muhajir) — 240/210	
Beans — 280/250	
Cabbage — 140/110	
Cauliflower (white) — 130/100	
Cherries (all kinds) — 150/120	
Cucumber (large) — 140/120	
Cucumber (small) — 260/220	
Eggplant (large) — 100/70	
Eggplant (small) — 120/90	
Fig — 320/280	
Garlic (without leaves) — 200/150	
Grapes — 200/150	
Guava — 500/400	
Lemon — 170/140	
Mallow — 60/40	
Marrow (large) — 130/100	
Marrow (small) — 190/160	
Onion (dry) — 160/130	
Okra — 300/240	
Peas — 500/450	
Pepper (hot green) — 160/120	
Pepper (sweet) — 160/120	
Potatoes — 320/280	
Pumpkin (sweet) — 180/140	
Potatoes — 120/100	
Radishes — 100/80	
Sweet Melon — 120/100	
Tomatoes — 200/150	
Water Melon — 110/80	

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Two-thirds of Jordan to be surveyed for mineral, agricultural potentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — An aerial geological survey of nearly two thirds of Jordan's land area will start soon with the purpose of defining the best way to utilise available land resources according to Interior Minister Suleiman Arar.

Mr. Arar said that this decision was taken by a ministerial committee entrusted by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat to find means of exploiting Jordan's agricultural and mineral potentials.

The committee has decided to conduct an initial survey on state-owned lands lying east of the railway line on the eastern suburbs of Amman to determine the nature of the land and whether it could be reclaimed for growing cereals, Mr. Arar said. These lands, he said, will be leased to farmers and cereal producers but will not be sold to the public.

In order to carry out its task, the ministerial committee will seek the help of the Jordanian National Geographic Centre (JNGC), the Armed Forces, the Water Authority and the Natural Resources

Authority (NRA) as these departments can help locate underground water sources and land which contains minerals, the minister said.

Those lands which can not be exploited for mining or agriculture will be leased for other purposes and projects, the minister added. He said that the JNGC will prepare illustrative maps of lands which will be reviewed at the committee's coming meeting on Monday.

The committee will study ways to deal with state land in Zarqa district governorate and organisational measures being taken there to prevent public encroachment on government-owned land, he said.

Altogether nearly 70,000 square kilometres of land will be surveyed by the committee which is chaired by Mr. Arar and groups the ministers of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, agriculture, and finance as well as the director of the Land and Survey Department.



HUSSEIN ATTENDS DIVISION CEREMONY: His Majesty King Hussein, Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, Tuesday attended a ceremony held by a unit of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division to mark its 36th anniversary. Troops from the unit took part in military exercises, a competition in re-assembling weapons and athletic events. The Armed Forces brass

band took part in the ceremony at the end of which the King distributed cups to the winners and prizes for those excelling in their performance while the troops presented the King with a token gift. The ceremony was attended by the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and other senior army officers. (Petra photo)

Bank embezzlement case unfolds as prime minister okays court sentences

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The embezzlement case at the Jordan-Gulf Bank unfolded Tuesday after Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat approved, with slight amendments, the military court's sentences against 16 defendants and the acquittal of 10 more.

Mr. Obeidat's endorsement of the sentences came after auditing the case's file and reducing prison verdicts on two of the defendants, one of them the manager of the bank concerned. The sentences ranged between three months and 15-year imprisonment with hard labour. The court found 10 of the accused not guilty of the charges brought against them.

The embezzlement process started when a money transfer arrived at the Jordan-Gulf Bank and the bank tried to contact the beneficiary in Jordan to come and receive the money transferred to him. But, the beneficiary did not appear to claim the amount after two months. It is not known when this exactly happened, but the most likely date is a few months before April when the military court started its proceedings on the case.

The sundries department employee at the bank at the time forged the beneficiary's signature and received the money illegally. The original beneficiary appeared after few days claiming his money from the bank.

When the issue reached the department head, he confronted the sundries employee who confessed to forging the signature and receiving the money. The department head then informed the bank's manager and his assistant who asked the employee to come and see them after work.

"No questions"

The employee pleaded to the manager not to inform the authorities, having also spent the money he embezzled. The bank manager and his assistant told him not to worry and that all he has to do is sign all papers they give him without asking any questions. The employee, because of his position, succumbed to the blackmail for fear of being exposed.

The manager and his assistants started manipulating money transactions and embezzling amounts which sources said reached hundreds of thousands of dinars with the sundries employee facilitating the embezzlement process.

The embezzlement was discovered when one employee in the sundries department took a vacation from the bank and an employee from another department took over his colleague's work.

The new employee felt there was something wrong with some cheques and other transactions and went immediately to inform the bank's head management who sent an inspection team to the bank to discover the embezzlement.

WAJ officials, engineers inspect Madaba villages water projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Mahmoud Al Talhouni Tuesday inspected the stages of work on the project for connecting the Bani Hamida villages in Madaba district to the main water line.

The new water line constitutes a part of a JD 250,000 project for connecting 18 villages west and

south of Madaba to the water network. The project includes installing 40 kilometre of pipes with diameters ranging between 2 and 8 inches, in addition to all fittings, mechanical and electrical works.

Mr. Talhouni was accompanied on the visit by directors of operation, and maintenance and the technical department, in addition to a number of engineers.

University, ministry sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A memorandum of understanding between the University of Jordan and the Ministry of Social Development was signed here Tuesday by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, president of Jordan University and Mr. Abdul Salam Kana'an, Minister of Social Development.

At a meeting held here Dr. Majali and Mr. Kana'an decided to form a special committee to specify scopes of cooperation and to follow up on and evaluate the joint works. They also agreed to form a technical committee which will be entrusted with drawing up executive programmes for such cooperation.

The committee is composed of the under secretary at the Ministry of Social Development, the technical assistant to the ministry's under-secretary, the University of Jordan's vice-president for humanitarian facilities affairs, dean of the Faculty of Arts, acting dean of the Education Faculty and the director of social development in Amman Governorate.

They have also agreed to intensify cooperation between the ministry and the university in the field of special education and ways of serving the community.



Abdul Salam Majali

University to introduce new subjects, courses for students

AMMAN (Petra) — New students at the University of Jordan will have to attend orientation courses to acquaint them with the university's academic, administrative functions and various services that would facilitate their university education.

The decision was taken by the university's council of deans which also said that a new subject to be called General Education will be given in two credit hours to first year students.

Students have to take this subject and pass the examination otherwise they will be denied their

degrees at the end of their course, a council statement said.

Another decision by the council of deans announced Tuesday stated that new students with a Tawjihi average of 70 per cent can only apply for nine credit hours in the first term of study at the university, in addition to the general education subject, and those with average marks above 70 per cent can have up to 15 credit hours in their first term course of study.

The council also decided to allow 50 per cent of the seats at the faculty of pharmacy to female students.

Labour minister reviews local employment problems

Abdul Jaber opens labour offices in Ma'an, Tafleeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Employment offices have been opened at Tafleeh and Ma'an, southern Jordan, to organise the employment of local and foreign workers in that region. Both offices were opened by Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber during a tour of the region which lasted two days.

In a speech at a ceremony held to mark the occasion, the minister underlined the importance of co-ordination between labour offices, provincial governors, mayors and chambers of commerce to help solve the problems facing Jordanian workers.

Dr. Abdul Jaber said that the Ministry of Labour is continuing its drive to substitute Jordanian workers for foreigners wherever and whenever this is possible and its offices around the country are entrusted to carry out that task.

Dr. Abdul Jaber earlier made an inspection tour of businesses and factories employing Jordanian and foreign workers in southern Jordan. During a visit to the South Cement Company he was briefed by its director, Hatem Al Hilwani, on the programmes and activities of the factory and its role in developing the southern region of Jordan. The factory employees are 90 per cent Jordanians, Mr. Hilwani said.

Karak, Ma'an meetings

Dr. Abdul Jaber met earlier with Karak Governor Ahmad Al Qur'an who discussed employment problems of Jordanians returning home from abroad and raised the issue of establishing a

complex for government departments in Karak to include a labour office and a branch of the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

During a meeting with Ma'an Governor Hashem Abu Abboud, the minister discussed problems facing Jordanian workers returning home with regard to housing and employment.

The minister was accompanied by his under secretary, Dr. Saleh Al Khasawneh, SSC Director General Farhi Oheid and several other officials.



Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jaber (centre) tours the South Cement Factory during a 2-day visit to the towns of Tafleeh, Ma'an and Karak where he discussed labour problems and unemployment. (Petra photo)

Medical team departs with Muslim pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Health Abed Khalf Dawoudieh and Kamel Al Ajlouni Tuesday bid farewell to the Jordanian medical team accompanying the Jordanian pilgrims to the holy places in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Ajlouni urged members of the expedition to render health care to all pilgrims, be they Jordanians or other nationalities. The expedition is headed by Dr. Mustafa Al Shunnaq from Bashir hospital comprises eight other doctors and forty nurses. Meanwhile, pilgrims from Islamic countries have started crossing the border point at Ramtha en route to Saudi Arabia.

Tailors, factories requested to adhere to school uniform standards

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of Standardisation and Metrology Saladdin Taha Tuesday stressed the importance of full adherence to the standards of school uniforms and called on tailoring factories to start producing such uniforms at the rate of 2,500 outfits daily on the basis of one uniform for each student during the scholastic year 1984/1985.

Special specifications for uniforms for male students whose ages range between 5 and 20 have been drawn up, Mr. Taha said.

Mr. Taha was speaking during a meeting held at the Standards and Metrology Department, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Amman Chamber of Industry and owners of textile companies and tailoring workshops.

Information, news office for Ministry of Agriculture

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Basir has decided to set up an agricultural information office at the ministry to be charged with preparing radio and television farming programmes, agricultural publications and news.

Education Ministry builds JD 2m vocational school

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has recently completed the construction of a JD 2 million vocational school which is considered the first of its kind in Jordan, regarding equipment, buildings and facilities.

The school, which is built on 33 dunums of land, consists of workshops for metalwork, woodwork, welding, central heating, air conditioning and cooling and auto mechanics. It also has laboratories, a modern library and the sports playgrounds, director of education in Madaba district

Abdul Latif Al-Sheikh said. The school was constructed in accordance with an agreement between the Ministry of Education and the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC has undertaken under an agreement to provide experts and equipment to the school as of the beginning of next year.

Under the agreement, the EEC has also undertaken to provide scholarships to the school teachers in order to train them in the various fields of specialisation. The school can absorb up to 540 students a year from Madaba district schools, and Naour sub-district.

Industry officials leave for trade talks with Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior official from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism has left to Cairo for talks aimed at boosting trade relations between Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al Hourani, the ministry's under secretary, will spend two days in Cairo discussing with Egyptian officials ways to implement a trade protocol signed earlier between the two sides. They will also discuss national products to be exhibited at the Jordanian trade centre in Cairo.

The protocol provides for each country's trade centre to import and sell up to \$2.5 million worth of products annually. The possibility of renting new premises for the Jordanian trade centre in the Egyptian capital is also expected to be taken at the talks.

Mr. Hourani is accompanied by the ministry's director of trade centres corporation, Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani.

Voters begin to register for municipal council elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 4,100 voters have so far registered their names for the forthcoming elections of Ramtha Municipal Council which will take place on Oct. 13.

The chairman of the voters registration committee said that he expected that the number of voters will reach more than 10,000 by Sept. 16, which is the deadline for the registration of voters.

Meanwhile in Na'ur, in the western outskirts of Amman, the

voters registration committee Tuesday started preparing lists of voters for the municipal elections in their village scheduled to take place on Oct. 11.

In Salt the assistant Balqa governor and chairman of Fuhais municipal council committee, Mr. Jamal Momani, decided to form a committee for registering voters and preparing lists of voters in preparation for the elections of Fuhais Municipal Council, scheduled for Nov. 11.

Spanish students tour Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — A 28-student delegation from the Spanish University of Saragossa arrived here on a few day official visit to the Yarmouk University where they were received by the university's President Dr. Adnan Badran.

The students then watched a

documentary film about the university's various activities and its educational facilities after which they toured the university's campus, the computer centre, the library, the engineering workshops, the student affairs department and the model school.

Queen Noor thrills young American musicians with informal chat following their classical, popular concert performance

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERASH — Young Strings in Action, a group of young American musicians who range between the ages of six and 20, put on an impressive performance at the Jerash Festival Sunday, highlighted by the arrival of Her Majesty Queen Noor in the middle of the show.

The group, composed of 15 violinists and one pianist, was expecting Queen Noor and upon her entrance to the Artemis Steps theatre they stopped their programme of classical music and put on a special show which included alongside with the classical music, traditional American fiddling and an American favourite, the music

theme from the Star Wars movie. The instructor of the group Mrs. Sheila Johnson, welcomed Queen Noor who was accompanied by Festival Director Mazen Armouti, and wished her a "happy birthday", although it is still four days early. Both the group and the audience then joined in singing "Happy Birthday" to the Queen.

Overwhelmed by the atmosphere, young Jonnilisa (Matthews), aged six, burst into tears when it was her turn to play a Mozart solo on her violin. Mrs. Johnson knelt near the talented child and whispered words of comfort. The determined Jonnilisa wiped her tears and started to play again, nervously at the beginning but the serene music of the violin

soon melted the fear away.

The audience responded with a long applause for Jonnilisa and Queen Noor rose from her seat, went over to the child and kissed her. Later Jonnilisa delighted both children and adults alike when she and Sheila sang "My Favourite Things" from the movie "The Sound of Music".

Later Sheila told the Jordan Times that it had been one of the toughest performances that the children had ever done. Sheila, who has a masters degree in the performing arts and education, explained that because the children were a long way from home and because the setting was so different from what they have been used to, this made the children a little more nervous than usual.

Sheila also said that this was the first time that the Young Strings had included a piano in the show which was another different factor for the youngsters.

The 16 young musicians attending the Third Jerash Festival are part of a group of 92 violinists, the Young Strings in Action, which belong to the Capitol Children's Museum in Washington. "Choosing 16 out of the whole group was very difficult," said Sheila, "but unfortunately I could not bring them all."

Mrs. Ann Lewin, the director of the Capitol Children's Museum, praised the excellent sound system provided by the organisers of the festival, which she said helped the performance.

Sunday's enchanting performance, which included a number of beautiful violin solos by Sonia Abhyankar, aged 14, and



Her Majesty Queen Noor meets the Young Strings in Action ensemble after their concert Sunday at the Third Jerash Festival (Petra photo)

Kim Pendergrast, aged 17, were disturbed by the audience talking and by the group of 30 visiting Arab children who walked out of the theatre during the show. However, the arrival of Queen Noor, who congratulated each of the young musicians individually and posed with them for pictures after the show, did make up for the earlier disturbance which did not affect the standard of the show.

The end of the performance was characterised by a very friendly and warm atmosphere generated by the presence of the Queen who spoke with the young musicians and by the entry of the ever cheerful Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse.

"We would really like to perform in Jordan again in the future", Sheila said. "We are getting used to the place and the setting."

Talking to the young musicians afterwards they said that they really liked the ancient Roman theatre which they said added grandeur to the classic music.

Missing from Sunday's show was the eight year old reporter Charles Lewis who usually accompanies the group and files daily reports about their activities to nine local radio stations in the United States. Charles made a distinguished appearance at the opening ceremony last Thursday where he could be seen roaming around with his tape recorder interviewing people on the scene.

Unfortunately Charles is not feeling well but the Jordan Times contacted the group on Monday and found out that Charles is feeling much better and would be able to attend the next shows on Wednesday and Thursday.



Young Strings in Action on stage at the Artemis Steps in Jerash perform classical and popular music watched by director Sheila Johnson (right) (Photo Bill Lyons)

Jordan Times

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Our towns deserve better

LOCAL AND municipal councils have a lot of potential to implement projects and to improve services in the local community. Whilst a few councils do take some initiative to better the socio-economic situation in their area by building craft zones, shopping centres and amenities, an even greater number of councils do very little despite all the plans that are discussed at meetings. It is true that these councils often do not have the financial resources to embark on large scale development programmes, nor do they have the technical or financial expertise to assess how useful or worthwhile a certain project will be. But, basically, it all comes down to problems of management and planning. A recent study by the economics department at the Royal Scientific Society has revealed just how unqualified many people serving on local councils really are and whilst this is not a surprising fact it is still a rather disturbing one. How many "white elephant" projects have been built with this small amount of money? It has been suggested that each town or rural area should have a manager who would be responsible for the planning and implementation of projects and who would work in cooperation with the council, but this idea was opposed by the vast majority of the country's councils. Perhaps they felt that a manager would undermine their authority or demean their position. Whatever the reasons behind this decision, however, the fact remains that it is sensible to have such managers to advise and assess the plans drawn up by elected municipal representatives throughout the Kingdom.

Many local councils are made up of tribal leaders, local personalities or professional persons such as doctors and engineers. While these people know about their area and are respected by the people, this does not necessarily mean that they have the technical, managerial or economic expertise to plan development projects for their community.

Surely it is time to review the outdated laws and regulations governing the activities of local councils in order that people can really benefit from all kinds of municipal projects. Local councils could do a lot more with a little assistance as their intentions are often well-meant and many of their ideas are sound and useful, but a qualified helping hand could always make the difference between simple ideas and practical projects.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Narrow interest help Israel

IT SEEMS that resistance fighters confronting the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon are the only people in that country concerned with Lebanese unity and territorial integrity. As they escalate their war against the Zionists in the South, inflicting heavy losses on them, the warring factions around Beirut and in the northern town of Tripoli continue to be involved in their small wars to help their leaders achieve personal gains and political successes.

The warring factions around Beirut and Tripoli seem to be ignorant of the fact that the Israeli enemy does not differentiate between one faction and another, and is only concerned with perpetuating its occupation and achieving its expansionist designs in their country. The warring factions seem not to have learnt from past lessons, nor from the Israeli invasion of Beirut, and believe that their personal interests over-ride those of their nation.

What is going on nowadays around Beirut and Tripoli is dangerous and should end immediately because a renewal of fighting there gives the Israelis more chance to concentrate their efforts towards stemming resistance activity in the South. The warring factions in Beirut and Tripoli should not be given the chance to help Israel to achieve that goal.

Al Dustour: Constructive Egyptian stance

EGYPT HAS announced its support for the idea of holding an international conference on the Middle East. It has thus taken another constructive step bringing it nearer to the Arab fold and closer to their policies with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This announcement means that Egypt rejects any partial solutions and wants an international conference to find a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the issue.

Egypt has thus moved away from the Camp David agreements, which hinged on U.S. mediation alone and now echoes a call for the convening of an international conference to achieve a durable peace. Cairo's new position has thus removed the shackles that prevented it so far from free movement and from taking positive stands in line with those of the Arab states which seek a just settlement to the issue.

This Egyptian move should be reciprocated by another from the Arab states because the presence of Egypt on their side enhances the Arab World's capability and helps end inter-Arab differences. All Arab states should devote their efforts for holding the international conference, and Egypt should follow up its announcement by taking practical action towards that objective.

Sawt Al Shaab: Solidarity with Egypt

AS INTERNATIONAL operations are going ahead in the Suez Canal and the Red Sea in search of peace, Egypt's foreign minister has called on the Arab states overlooking the Red Sea to meet and discuss proper measures for ensuring safety of navigation in the waterway on a permanent basis.

Jordan supports such a call and urges other Arab states to respond favourably to the idea. The Canal and the Red Sea lie in the midst of the Arab region and it is Arab responsibility to see that they are safe for international navigation. Finding a means of defending our waters will be in line with the joint Arab defence pact and Arab League resolutions. The Red Sea and the Suez Canal are part of the Arab area as much as Lebanon and Iraq and, therefore, all Arabs must respond to any call for defending them. This is a new challenge for the Arabs to meet, and the mining of the waterways represents a new danger threatening not only Egyptian interests but rather those of the Arab Nation.

Lack of solidarity with Egypt in the present circumstances does not help the Arab Nation's endeavours to try to bring back Cairo to the Arab fold.

Why do not we try a 5-day working week?

By Fahd Al Rimawi

AS JORDAN is now going through a stage of re-organising its civil service system, I wonder if we should expect to see the door open for more new concepts or methods of modern administration, or should make our public administration more "original". By "original" I mean that we ought to breathe life into our public administration system, evoking our old values when teachers, civil servants and other public administration officials dedicated their whole time for the work they did, discharging the affairs of their departments conscientiously, and in the best possible manner, shunning temptation for receiving bribes and commissions, or committing acts of embezzlement and non-abiding by office hours.

A public civil servant should

indeed display morality and should dedicate his time for work which earns him his "bread and butter", and he should show a sense of belonging to the community to which he actually belongs and, therefore, he must reflect the state's awe and respect.

Let us forget about "modernisation" and originality in public administration for the time being and concentrate on a modest proposal which I hereby submit to the Jordanian public in general and the special Royal Commission entrusted with carrying out modernisation in Jordan's civil service system in particular. I propose that the country should adopt the "full-day work" system to all government departments and public and private institutions for five days a

week, and to have a two-day weekend instead of one day as is the case in the present system.

Other countries are a way ahead of us in the application of this system. In the Soviet Union, the U.S. and in all European countries, people work five days a week, starting at nine in the morning and finishing at six in the evening with one-hour break at mid-day for rest and a light meal without leaving the work premises. In return, they get a two-day week-end during which they enjoy better rest and a longer time for recreation.

I call on everybody to contemplate and discuss this idea with an open mind and an open heart with the purpose of assessing its advantages and disadvantages, and with the aim of

evaluating its economic, administrative and social value before taking a final decision. I personally believe that this idea, which the world has tried, entails positive elements on the economic, social and administrative levels. It helps

to cut down on petrol consumption, reduce traffic problems and improve work performance in general. The full-day work schedule will eventually lead to an improvement in the productive capacity and efficiency of the worker and the civil servant, and will provide people with longer time for recreation and rest after work. Five full days of serious and hard work followed by two days of complete rest are bound to revive one's vitality and vigour, enabling everyone to carry out his or her work

with more dedication and diligence.

In advanced and developed nations, people do not work only half a day from morning till two in the afternoon and then spend the other half of the day in idleness... taking a long siesta after a heavy lunch, or playing backgammon or a game of cards at cafes, or visiting to gossip or spread harmful rumours. In developed countries there is no time during the day for car owners or motorists and pedestrians to pace the streets of the city where congestion and the crowds that throng the pavements nearly suffocate the city, something that lasts from morning until evening, all the year round. We indeed do not know when these people and motorists go to bed or go to

work in the farms, factories, and offices to do meaningful and productive work.

Following a visit to the Soviet Union, I personally went through the experience of working a full day from morning till evening, despite discouraging remarks from friends and acquaintances. At the end of the full day I discovered that I had more time to do business during that day which I fully utilised in meaningful and productive work. I really discovered that in the absence of a proper place for people to go and instead of wasting their energy in vain, they should utilise available time for their own benefit and that of their society. This is perhaps the most exemplary manner in which people can lead a useful and meaningful life. — Al Ra'i.



Christian villagers willing to forget mountain atrocities

By Tod Roberson
Reuter

MISHREF, Lebanon — The handful of Christians who returned to this Shouf village recently speak without bitterness of the militiamen who ransacked their home in 11 months fighting between Christian and Druze forces.

Their houses still bear obscenities and graffiti painted by militiamen proclaiming victory by "the army to liberate the masses", the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Some of the Christians of this mountain village say they lost everything to the Druze. But they bear no grudges.

"We expected it. This is war," said Butros Aoun, 35, whose family was among about 20 that pioneered a return of Christians to villages they fled last September when the PSP overran the Shouf and ousted the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia.

Signs of war are still very much in evidence even though the PSP finished its sweep of the area more than six months ago. Three PSP tanks are parked on a hilltop outside a PSP barracks less than one kilometre from Mr. Aoun's home.

Dozens of militiamen control checkpoints at all entrances to the village while others patrol in a truck mounted with a double-barrelled anti-aircraft gun.

To the south, across a valley on a hilltop overlooking Mishref, banners of the "Lebanese Forces" still fly atop what PSP militiamen say are operative lookout posts.

"They wouldn't dare shoot at us, though," the escort said of the Christian militiamen. "We have 50 tanks in these hills, and we could wipe them out in five minutes."

In Beirut, militia and army leaders have spent more than a month trying unsuccessfully to formulate a plan under which the militias would put away their arms and allow a gradual return of Christian refugees to their mountain homes.

Officials of both militias concede that the return of Christians to Mishref is unique in a region where tension and mistrust still run high between the two religious factions.

There are memories of atrocities by each side during the war, notably a spate of tit-for-tat massacres last September in which scores of Druze and Christian civilians including children were killed or shot in cold blood by the two militias.

Many Christian refugees in Beirut say they have nothing but contempt for the PSP, but here they offer praise and thanks to the PSP and its leader, cabinet minister Walid Jumblatt.

"Thank God he got us back," said 60-year-old Najla Aoun who, after surviving the worst fighting of the mountain war, fled behind Israeli lines last February because she feared a massacre by non-local PSP gunmen advancing on Mishref.

"When we left, we didn't have time to take anything," said another Christian resident who fled under heavy Druze shelling last September. "There was nothing left when we came back. But it's not important as long as we have a roof over our heads."

Najla Aoun said she had no reason to mistrust her Druze neighbours or the PSP. "We have been living together without any problems for the past century. The Druze and Christians have always been close."

Like other Mishref Christians, Linda Mawad, 61, blamed the "Lebanese Forces" for bringing the wrath of the PSP upon them. "The Christian militia moved into the mountains, previously dominated by the PSP, with invading Israeli troops in June 1982."

"Had it not been for the Lebanese Forces, we wouldn't have had to leave in the first place," Ms. Mawad said.

"The Lebanese Forces came in here and instead of protecting the people, they did everything they could to antagonise everybody," said Butros Aoun. "During the nine years of the civil war, we have kept good relations with the Druze, and the Lebanese Forces came in here and ruined everything."

Druze civilians from nearby villages spoke warmly of the prospect of more Christians returning.

"Of course we want the Christians to come back," said Sharif Nassreddine of the mixed Druze-Christian village of Kfar Katra. "We're nationalists. It was the Lebanese Forces who split us."

A "Lebanese Forces" spokesman in Beirut played down the statements by Christians returned to Mishref. "They have to say those things," he said. "Do you think Walid Jumblatt would let them return to their homes if they were pro-Lebanese Forces?"

The commander of the "Lebanese Forces", Fadi Frem, said he would reject any mountain peace plan not including provisions for the return of all Christian refugees to the mountains.

Soloist America plays it hard at UNIDO

By David Storey
Reuter

VIENNA — The United States has used a major North-South conference to publicise its hard line on aid to developing countries, making clear it expects political conformity and accountability in return for contributions.

The conference of the United Nations Organisation for Industrial Development (UNIDO) closed early Monday morning, with rich and poor nations unable to agree on a document reviewing the world economic situation.

The American delegation was the only one to vote against the draft, although 12 other industrialised countries abstained. Seventy-nine states from the "Third World", backed by the Soviet bloc and joined by most West Europeans, voted in favour.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Williamson said the text encouraged "the continued pursuit of unproductive illusions."

He said it was biased and inaccurate, touched topics such as disarmament and trade which were not within UNIDO's mandate and failed to take into account the influence of different economic and financial systems.

The tough U.S. approach echoed the Reagan administration's declared intention to withdraw from the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) because of what it termed the excessive politicisation of the U.N. body and the need to improve its management.

The conference here was bogged down in political wrangling, overshadowing discussion of real industrial development issues such as transfer of technology, better use of energy resources and how to reform technical education in "Third World" states.

In the final hours before the conference closed, a Palestinian delegate accused Israel of fascism, an Iraqi harangued the Iranians over the Gulf war and a Bulgarian

mocked Israel for "counting tanks".

Each speaker was politely addressed by a weary conference president, who issued repeated requests for brevity, as "the distinguished delegate."

The U.S. had declared in its opening statement a determination to concentrate aid on states with free market economies, scolding the economic record of Communist states.

"While each sovereign country has a right to develop in its own way, it does not have the right to expect there will be a growing level of funds to finance whatever policies it chooses," Ambassador Williamson said.

A senior Indian delegate told the closing session the conference was ending "on an unhappy and unfortunate note."

UNIDO executive Director Abdul Rahman Khaouf told reporters it was "premature to say if there were any concrete results."

Most resolutions involved vaguely worded commitments to work to improve the situation. Khaouf said he would have to wait until a cashwapping session in November to see whether there was any substance behind the promises.

The conference, the only major North-South meeting in 1984, took place in a grim world economic climate, with huge "Third World" debts, high interest rates, protectionism by developed states struggling out of recession and low commodity prices.

Delegates to the second UNIDO conference in Lima eight years ago were confident enough to set a target that developing countries should be producing 25 per cent of the world's manufacturing output by the year 2000.

Since then the percentage has crept up from 10 to 11.9 per cent and ambitions have correspondingly shrunk, but the target, which almost all agree is unreachable, is unchanged.

Bloody bus boycott continues into second year

By Judy Parfitt
Reuter

MDANTSANE, Ciskei, South Africa — A year after five black commuters died amid a hail of police gunfire, South Africa's longest-running and perhaps bloodiest bus boycott continues with little sign of resolution.

The cause of the boycott — an 11-per-cent fare rise on buses from this Eastern Cape township to the industrial port of East London — has become just a sidelight in a 13-month battle against the government of Ciskei, a black homeland independent under South Africa's apartheid (racial separation) system.

Most of the original rise has been rescinded, but the move has failed to bring peace or fill the buses in Mdantsane, with 300,000 inhabitants South Africa's second-largest black city.

Stories told to journalists over the past year have painted a picture of a siege city that has shocked even those already critical of President Lennox Sebe's government.

Some residents tell of armed

bands of vigilantes who roamed the streets persecuting those who refused to ride buses owned jointly by the Ciskei and South African governments.

Others relate how the gangs took them off to a sports stadium to torture and beat them with sticks.

The government has admitted the use of vigilantes in the early days of the boycott, but said it punished those who misused their power.

Residents say the worst of the violence is probably over. The vigilantes were withdrawn towards the end of last year, the stadium is no longer used as a prison and the town's dusk-to-dawn curfew is now enforced less strictly.

But the Aug. 4 anniversary of the commuters' deaths showed the rift between boycotters and government was as deep as ever.

Two weeks earlier, half the members of a "committee of 10", formed by residents to negotiate with the bus company, were arrested. They remain in police detention.

On the day itself, all meetings, including special church services,

were banned in the township by the local magistrate.

And the buses still run at least half empty as workers prefer to take trains or taxis, or hitch-hike to East London 20 kilometres away. The committee is demanding a return to the old fares, improved services and concessions for children and pensioners before they call off the boycott.

Local activists say the boycott has politicised the township and many of its residents, focusing opposition to the Ciskei government and the homeland's "independence" that is unrecognised outside South Africa.

The Ciskei government says the boycott was spawned as a political act by revolutionary opponents, particularly those in trade unions, and police say the five commuters died at railway stations after police were forced to defend themselves.

There has been no enquiry into either these deaths or those of three other people who died in subsequent incidents.

Trade unionist Sisa Njikelana

says the boycott was made into a political issue by the government's reaction.

"The boycott was triggered by raised bus fares," he told Reuters recently. "Ciskei government intervention resulted in the situation deteriorating and antagonism between the people of Mdantsane and the Ciskei authorities reaching a record low."

He described the boycott as a symbol of growing resistance to Ciskei's "so-called independence", taken in 1981 against the advice of an enquiry which deemed the overcrowded territory too tiny and too poor ever to be economically viable.

President Sebe has outlawed Njikelana's union — the South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU) — which he views as one of the prime movers behind the boycott.

In an interview with Reuters last year, Mr. Sebe likened SAAWU to the banned African National Congress (ANC), the principal black guerrilla group fighting white-minority rule in South Africa.

LETTERS

Live up to his expectations

To the Editor:

NO DOUBT most of us spent Thursday evening watching the interview of King Hussein by the American CNN reporter on Jordan T.V.

His Majesty, in his usual calm and intelligent way expressed the views and the hopes of his nation with precision and accuracy, and put them in far better words and a far better way than any other Arab would have hoped to have done. During the interview, the King let the world know his real source of confidence. It was not as we know it to be — his intelligence, foresight and love for peace; it was, he said, his faith in his nation, in Jordanians, in us!

I was overwhelmed by his words, moved by what he said. He is a great man who has done so much for Jordan, so much for the lives and so much for peace that he is worthy of our blood, and our sacrifice.

We Jordanians shall live up to his expectations, stand for what he represents and support him in all the steps he takes, for he is our leader, the ideal leader whom every nation in the world is yearning for.

Asida Abu-Jaber
Jordan University,
Amman.

جورديان تايمز

Why Europe's Socialists took a 'right' turn

Five of Western Europe's six Socialist governments have swung sharply to the right. Why? And are their new policies more or less popular than the old ones? A report by Tim Brown, Jill Jolliffe, Mario Modiano, Jon Swain, Tana de Zulueta, and Pelle Ahnstedt.



Soares



Papandreou



Mitterrand



Craxi



Palme

ORIGIN OF WORDS

Every word was once a poem; Each began as a picture.

FRIDAY

In Old English, Friday was *Frige*, the day of the Norse goddess Frigg, wife of Woden and the goddess of marriage. She was the Norse counterpart of the Roman goddess Venus and her day, Friday, was like the Latin *dies Veneris*, or "day of Venus."

Wednesday and Thursday had been named for her husband Woden and her son Thor, so Friday was assigned to her as appeasement. The Norsemen regarded Friday as their lucky day, but not so for the Christians since the Crucifixion took place on a Friday.

SATURDAY

In Old English *Saeternesdag*, merely "Saturn's day," is a half translation and half-adoption of the Latin *Saturndies*, or "day of Saturn," the Roman god of sowing.

SUNDAY

Sunday replaced Saturday as the Sabbath because the Resurrection took place on a Sunday. It was around the 14th century that the church made it a holiday and forbade anyone to work. In Old English it was spelled *Sunnandæg*, literally the "Sun's day," a translation of the Latin *dies Solis*, or "day of the sun."

ANNOY: once a military term

In the 16th century the English had a *Jury of Annoyances* to deal with such public nuisances as the "slaughter of bests within the city." The word annoy was much stronger then. An attacking enemy would "annoy a town." This term traces back by changes of spelling to the Latin phrase in odio, which meant "in hatred." The French took the Latin word over in the derived form *ennuyer*, "displease," and from this term English inherited the two words annoy and ennuil, the first meaning "to displease" and the second, "the act of being bored by unpleasantness," or just boredom in general. Another useful English word comes from the same Latin parentage. The word could have been *annoy*, but it was reduced to the less awkward word *noisy*, meaning "disputing," "offensive," which is the extremity of annoyance.

ROYALTY

Authors want royalties, but royalties were first paid to kings by the commoners for the right to operate royal properties and resources. Royalties at the time were the royal privilege of royalty itself. Now an author, like the kings of old, is paid royalties by the publisher or producer for the right to use his properties for profit.

NOVEL

A novel, like its sister word novelty, is something "new." Turn back the pages of the Roman history and you will discover its first source in the Latin word *novella* which meant "new things."

— Ahmad Jaber

KARL MARX would have been puzzled by its ideological significance but in Western Europe in 1984 Socialist countries have one clear advantage over nations ruled by right-wing governments: they are sunnier.

Every Mediterranean country in Western Europe is now ruled by a Socialist government or a Socialist-led coalition; while nearly every country north of the "olive-tree line" is ruled by a right-of-centre government — with the striking exception of Sweden.

But the "sunshine Socialists" are all rather blue in tooth and claw. When Francois Mitterrand took office in 1981 and appointed four Communist ministers, Washington was in a cold sweat. Now Mitterrand is regarded as America's most loyal European ally. Even Andreas Papandreou's Socialists — who threatened to take Greece out of NATO and the EEC — have proved to be less than revolutionary.

The main reason for the lurch to the right has been the familiar clash of socialist ideology with obstinate reality. In France, Mitterrand found that his revolutionary policy was driving the franc through the floorboards. In Greece, Papandreou found that withdrawal from NATO and the EEC would have weakened his country.

The socialists who have made the sharpest changes in direction have had a mixed reaction from the public.

By contrast, the Spanish and Italian socialists, who displayed right-wing tendencies from the start, are still popular. So, too, are the Swedish who, unlike their southern brothers, have stuck to a left-wing policy. The moral seems to be: consistency pays.

Spain

Spain's Socialist government is probably the most successful of the six. Led by 42-year-old Felipe Gonzalez, it still seems to be almost as popular as when it won the 1982 election. This is remarkable, because Spain now has the highest rate of unemployment in Western Europe.

The government's economic policy has been tough from the start (a pledge of create 800,000

new jobs was discarded instantly). Miguel Boyer has followed an almost monetarist policy since he became the government's economic overlord.

Although it has done nothing to help the unemployed, the government has slowed down inflation, from 14 per cent a year to a per cent forecast 8 per cent by the end of this year.

The government has also adopted a Thatcherite approach to nationalised industry, where 60,000 jobs will disappear over the next three years.

All this has brought howls of protest from the left, strikes by the affected workers — and street violence.

But the Socialist policy seems to be working. The country's growth rate has accelerated and may touch 2.5 per cent this year.

The issue of whether Spain should stay in NATO could yet threaten the government, however. A referendum has been promised, but many ministers, including Gonzalez, would like to keep the country in the alliance. Left-wingers in the party are still strongly opposed to membership.

Portugal

Like the Italians, the Portuguese Socialists were fairly right-wing before they took office. Since Mario Soares became prime minister at the head of a coalition of Socialists and Social Democrats, his main objective has been to introduce austerity measures to appease the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The economy is now in better shape. The government has reduced the deficit on its current account even more sharply than it promised the IMF, and inflation has slowed; but the price has been heavy.

A study in the magazine *Express* found that fewer Portuguese now eat out in restaurants or go to the cinema, many more now walk to work, and consumption of high-protein foods like meat, eggs and fish has declined.

Austerity is not popular; a recent poll found that only 13 per cent of voters gave Soares high marks. The party's left-wing is increasingly disillusioned. Seven Socialist MPs recently voted against the government's anti-

terrorist law which will allow more wire-tapping, the opening of private mail and the compulsory recruitment of public servants as informers. Left-wingers have compared these measures with those adopted under the Salazar dictatorship.

Greece

Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Socialist prime minister, has made so many changes of policy since he took office that pundits have lost count and his critics are bewildered.

He has completely reversed his foreign policy. At the time of the election, Papandreou promised to pull Greece out of NATO and the EEC. He has done neither. Nor has he forced the United States to close its bases, as he said he would. He realised he could not afford to jeopardise Greece's ability to defend itself against Turkey and he needed Western cash to keep the economy going.

Papandreou has tried to counter-balance these changes by anti-Western rhetoric.

On the home front, he has had to adopt conventional economic policies to make up for the loose policy he pursued in his first year, when wages soared. Last year he imposed a wage freeze, devalued the drachma and introduced anti-strike legislation so harsh that Mrs. Thatcher might blench.

Yet despite all the twists and turns, Papandreou is not all that unpopular. In the Euro-election, the Socialists' share of the vote fell to 41.5% (against 48% at the last general election), but they still outpolled the main conservative opposition party.

France

When President Mitterrand

took power in 1981, students danced for joy in the Place de la Bastille; he was committed to the most radical policy to be followed by any French government since 1945.

The pace of reform in Mitterrand's first two years was breathless. The minimum legal wage, family allowances and pensions all went up. The working week was shortened to 39 hours without any loss of earnings and a fifth week's paid holiday was negotiated. The retirement age was reduced to 60.

The first socialist measures in foreign policy were also full of left-wing symbolism. He refused to open the Le Bourget air show until armaments were hidden. Two weeks after taking office, he encouraged an international conference in Paris to discuss sanctions against South Africa. He suspended nuclear tests in the Pacific.

However, Gallic pragmatism soon replaced Socialist ideology in foreign affairs. It took just five days for nuclear testing to be resumed. The country has strengthened its economic ties with South Africa; and Mitterrand now presides over the world's third largest arms business.

The most glaring change has been his economic about-turn. The Socialists started out with an ambitious programme of reflation to create thousands of jobs. The policy backfired. Inflation accelerated, creating a huge trade deficit and sending the franc plummeting (although it did stop unemployment rising; French unemployment is still only 8.5 per cent against more than 13 per cent in Britain).

Mitterrand was then obliged to savage public spending and throw his industrial policy into reverse. He has now decided to prune thousands of jobs in state-owned ind-

ustries. These reversals have not impressed French voters. In the June Euro-election, the socialists took only a fifth of the vote, and Mitterrand himself is now one of the most unpopular presidents for years.

But his latest moves — appointing a new prime minister and withdrawing his plan to integrate private schools into the state system — may have improved his image. One thing is clear, however. Mitterrand's claims to be a Socialist are now thin.

Italy

Bettino Craxi, Italy's Socialist prime minister, made his turn to the right before he took power. So nobody had been surprised at his government's right-wing character.

His party is still a midget — he won just 11 per cent of the vote at the last general election — but his middle-of-the-road policy has helped him to control the balance of power and thus the office of prime minister.

His foreign policy has been firmly pro-NATO: he has supported the deployment of cruise missiles in Sicily. At home, he has infuriated the unions by trying to limit wage-indexing. This has earned him the title of "the most right-wing prime minister in 20 years" from the Communists, who bitterly opposed his government from the start.

Craxi has also been ruthless in removing left-wingers from key positions within his own party, although those that have remained have strongly attacked his policies.

Right-wing policies have helped differentiate the Socialists from the Communists, but they have not led to the surge of support that

Craxi anticipated. In the Euro-election in June, the socialist share of the vote rose by only 0.5 per cent.

However, Craxi has succeeded in increasing the power of his party. He has cleverly exploited the Socialists' position as a small but necessary ally for the Christian Democrats. Not only do the Socialists hold the premiership, they have also picked up a series of plum posts in national and local government, industry, banks and the media.

Craxi claims his hardline economic policy has worked. Inflation has dropped from 15 per cent, though it is still in double figures; the balance of payments is in balance and the growth of the public debt has been halted. But, as elsewhere, unemployment is still rising.

Craxi has kept his coalition together and just before parliament went into recess he managed to extract a vote of confidence. This suggests that he may stay as prime minister for the best part of a second year. By Italy's standards, where prime ministers usually come and go monthly, that is a remarkable achievement.

Sweden

The Swedish Social Democratic party has refused to allow the country's economic difficulties — notably its large foreign debt — to force a lurch to the right. Since Olof Palme returned to power in 1982, he has refused to make more than marginal cuts in public spending, or to dismantle Sweden's elaborate welfare system.

He has also stuck to his controversial plan to set up "wage-earner funds", which will enable trade unions to buy shares in industry with the proceeds of levies on payrolls and industrial profits,

although the scale of the scheme has been cut back.

So far, the economy is in good shape, largely because Palme sharply devalued the krona when he took office. This has fuelled an export boom and a surge on the Swedish stockmarket.

Palme has had his embarrassments: Russian submarines have several times violated Swedish territorial waters. And the party is increasingly divided between left and right, in a struggle dubbed "the war of the roses" (the rose is the SDP symbol).

The leader of the party's right-wing is the finance minister, Kjell-Olof Feldt. In a recently published book he called for lower income taxes (Sweden has the world's highest), urged that companies should be allowed to make "decent" profits and suggested that the private sector compete with the public sector in running hospitals and schools.

Feldt has also said bluntly that Sweden is in danger of losing the battle against inflation, principally because the unions have failed to keep wage increases within the government's 6 per cent limit. The government had hoped to reduce inflation to 4 per cent by the end of the year, but it is currently more than 6 per cent, and with wage settlements running at around 10 per cent, most experts agree that it will have wiped out the effects of devaluation by next year.

The leftist leader of the 2.2m strong trade-union confederation, Sög Malm, criticises the government for doing too little about unemployment, although job creation schemes cover 4 per cent of the workforce.

Even so, Palme has maintained his popularity. The latest polls show that he would win an election if it were called now — The Sunday Times.

French car industry faces major shakeout

By Tom Gilroy
Reuter

PARIS — France's car industry may have to shed a quarter of its workforce as part of a major overhaul planned by the government and the country's two big car-makers.

Both state-owned Renault and privately-owned Peugeot recorded big losses last year and face falling sales at home and a shrinking share of overseas markets. Besides the job losses, the remedy will require new models and higher productivity, and the extensive retooling needed will take billions of francs the carmakers clearly do not have.

The car industry was the driving force behind France's postwar recovery, and with one of every 10

jobs somehow tied to it, the changes will have a significant social impact.

A government-commissioned study, due next month but already extensively leaked to the press, is expected to call for 50,000 to 70,000 cuts in the industry's 270,000 workforce over the next three years, according to union sources.

And the semi-official Economic and Social Council said recently that large-scale job cuts were needed if the industry was to reverse a trend of sliding market share and heavy losses.

A glimpse of the problem came in January when Peugeot tried to fire 1,905 workers at its Talbot subsidiary, sparking violent clashes that halted output at a plant outside Paris for a week.

Peugeot subsidiary Citroen is to

shed 4,000 jobs and has offered retraining for 2,000 more employees plus cash incentives to persuade immigrant workers to go home.

But the Communist-led CGT union, France's largest, opposes all redundancies and warns it regards the government's response to the Citroen proposals as a test of the Socialists' commitment to solving industrial problems without aggravating unemployment.

The recent council report said Renault and Peugeot were so heavily in debt that they would need massive financial aid to carry out the restructuring necessary to make them competitive with foreign producers.

It estimated the French car industry's overall investment needs at 20 billion francs (\$2.3 billion) a year.

The government has already marked the car industry for special treatment, lending Renault 750 million francs (\$57 million) from its industrial modernisation fund.

But both groups say lower labour costs are needed, and there seems no alternative to the painful surgery that returned carmakers like Fiat, Chrysler and Ford to financial good health.

"I think what we are experiencing now is what other makers experienced earlier," a spokeswoman for the French Car Manufacturers' Association said.

But she echoed industry optimism over the outcome, and a Renault official added that the completion of model renewal should start to improve the picture next year or in 1986.

In the meantime, however, a

Renault official predicted that 1984 would be a "black year" for the French car industry.

Peugeot and Renault recorded 1983 group losses of 2.59 billion francs (\$295 million) and 1.58 billion (\$180 million) respectively. Union sources and some press accounts believe Renault could lose more than six billion francs (\$685 million) this year if sales do not improve.

Both companies say a 14-per-cent fall in French new car sales this year is due partly to a drop in domestic purchasing power and thus not of the industry's making.

Foreign cars took 41 per cent of the French market last month and have accounted for 36 per cent of 1984 sales so far compared to 22 per cent in 1982, the Renault off-

icial said.

Peugeot and Renault slid by mid-1984 from the top sellers in Europe 18 months ago to fifth and sixth places respectively.

Strong demand at home and abroad for its new 205 compact model has kept Peugeot's slide from becoming a free fall this year and Renault has had success with its R-9 and R-11.

Both firms are burdened with models that simply do not sell or that have lost their popular appeal, like Renault's venerable R-5, now 13 years old.

Peugeot is also saddled with the troubled Talbot (formerly Chrysler Europe) and Citroen subsidiaries whose cars, with the exception of the Citroen BX, have not lived up to expectations.

Industry sources say any durable

turnaround for the carmakers depends on improved French sales and a streamlining of activities to boost productivity to levels enjoyed by their competitors. But with the French government committed to its austerity programme, a pick-up in sales is not assured.

The productivity problem is likely to be more intractable. The companies admit that their operations are overmanned but argue that productivity gains require more than layoffs.

And they know that even modest cuts will provoke an outcry from the traditionally militant unions. "I'm sure we are going to face some difficult moments in the next few months," a Renault source said.

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Soviets, East Germans vie for swimming and cycling honours

MOSCOW (AP) — The swimming and cycling competitions at the four-day old Soviet-sponsored Friendship-84 games have developed into an inevitable battle between the host nation and East Germany, while Cubans are dominating the boxing competition in Havana.

In men's gymnastics team competition, the Soviet Union took the opening day lead Monday, with Soviet Yuri Balabanov scoring a perfect 10 on the rings.

East German athletes were expected to widen the margin in swimming as the competition continues here Tuesday. Jens-Peter Berndt of East Germany turned in Monday's top performance, setting a European record in the men's 400-metre individual medley with a time of four minutes, 18.29 seconds.

In Monday's early quarterfinal boxing matches, Cuban Angel Herrera, a two-time Olympic gold medal winner and the current world amateur lightweight champion, won a 4-1 decision over Norland Abdulkalilov of the Soviet Union.

Bantamweight Ramon Ledon of Cuba won an easy 5-0 decision over Jon Men Son of North Korea.

Another Cuban, Angel Espinosa, won a split 3-2 decision over Andrei Akulov of the Soviet Union in the light middle-weight division.

In Olomouc, Czechoslovakia, the gymnastics Spartakiad got underway, with 11 nations participating including Westerners Britain and Mexico.

The Soviet men, led by world champion Dmitri Belozherchev, received the highest marks for five events but were beaten in the high bar by the East Germans.

In all, five Olympic medal winning times were beaten on the second day of swimming competition.

Berndt's time would have been only good for a silver medal at Los Angeles, where Alex Baumann of Canada won the event in a world record time of 4:17.41.

So far the East Germans have won five out of nine swimming events, while the Soviets have dominated the cycling oval.

The two countries have shared all the swimming and cycling top places between them, leaving third place to other participants.

The Soviet Union led a 14-nation boycott of the Los Angeles Summer Olympics citing unsatisfactory security arrangements and fear of harassment as the main reason for staying away.

Larissa Belokon of the Soviet Union and Sylvia Gerasch of East Germany both beat Canadian Ann Ottenhribe's 1984 Olympic gold time of 2:30.38 in the women's 200-metre breaststroke. Belokon won in 2:29.13, with Gerasch following in 2:29.62.

In the women's 200-metre freestyle event, East German world record-holder Kristin Otto finished in 1:59.48, a time that would have netted her the silver medal at the Summer Olympics, where U.S. swimmer Mary Wayte won.

In cycling, the Soviet Union's Nikolai Kopylov is looking for his second victory after having won the opening 1,000-metre time trials on Saturday.

He reached the semifinal stage Monday and headed for a showdown with East Germany's Lutz Heschlo, the 1980 Olympic gold medalist in this event.

Kopylov's countryman Gintautas Umaras surprised Berndt of East Germany in the individual pursuit finals, beating him to the line by more than a second.

Dierker set an indoor world record while qualifying against the clock on Sunday.

While the swimmers contest five finals on Tuesday, the cyclists continue their qualification rounds without a title being decided.

The field hockey tournament saw the Soviet Union's "A" and "B" teams continue their way to a showdown in the final.

The "A" squad which was qualified for the Los Angeles Olympics routed Zimbabwe 9-1 and the "B" side edged East Germany 1-0.

In Kesz, Poland, the three-day equestrian competition ended Sunday, and Yuri Kovshov of the Soviet Union, a gold medalist at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, dominated the events, winning three events and placing second in two events.

Thirty-six riders participated from Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, East Germany, West Germany, Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union.

Jordan invited to sports talks in Frankfurt

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Youth Organisation (JYO) has received an invitation to take part in a meeting in Frankfurt beginning Sept. 10 of experts on organising sports activities.

During the 23-day meetings participants will discuss issues pertaining to exchange of information and expertise in the field of sports among the participating countries.

The meeting is organised by the West German National Olympic Committee.

Iraq pulls out of Asian Cup finals

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has announced its withdrawal from the finals of the Asian Soccer Championship in Singapore in December, the newspaper Al Thawra reported Tuesday.

Quoting the president of the Iraqi Football Federation, Sabah Mirza Mahmoud, the newspaper said the federation decided at a meeting Monday to withdraw because of the many injuries the Iraqi squad suffered during the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

But he said Iraq would take part in the qualifying rounds for the 1986 World Cup.

Iraq and Qatar qualified for the tournament finals in their group, and Iran — with which Iraq has been at war for four years — and Syria have also qualified.

Coe to seek to smash 1,500-metre record

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe will try to smash the 11-month-old 1,500-metre world record at an international track and field meet at Zurich's Letzgrund stadium Wednesday, organisers said Monday.

Coe, who bettered the mark several times, including here, intends to recapture it from fellow Briton Steve Ovett who turned in a best of 3:30.77 at Rieti, Italy, last September.

Armando Garganigo, press chief of the meeting, said Coe announced he aims at the world record in a star-studded field including Steve Scott and Said Aouita, the Olympic 5,000-metre champion from Morocco.



Cuba's Mariano Delis spins around on his way to win the discus event at the Budapest athletics meet on Monday (AP wirephoto)

Lewis betters 100m record in Budapest as East bloc dominates athletics meet

BUDAPEST (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis breezed to a win in the 100 metres and Soviet-bloc athletes dominated their traditional events Monday at an international athletics meet that posed no world record threats.

Lewis, the four-time gold winner at Los Angeles, was clocked at 10.05, 0.22 seconds ahead of Hungary's Attila Kovacs but well short of American Calvin Smith's 1983 world record of 9.93. Lewis was mobbed shortly after his victory by photographers and autograph-seeking children.

The 23-year-old's run was 0.06 seconds under the time that brought him Olympic gold in Los Angeles. His performance was indicative of those of other favourites at the meet, who won with results well below their best.

Towering Soviet hammer thrower Yuri Sedykh's best performance was 85.02 metres, 1.32 metres below the world record he set in Ireland earlier this year, as he led a Soviet hat trick in Budapest.

Second was Yuri Tamm with 83.32 metres, ahead of Igor Nikulin with 81.20 metres. Based on their performances here, all three would have beaten Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe.

Another closely watched East bloc performer was Imrich Buga of Czechoslovakia. Buga, the favourite in the event here, lost out to Mariano Delis, the Cuban champion. Delis

threw for 68.60 metres, compared to the Czech's 68.48 metres. Juan Martinez of Cuba was third with 67.00 metres.

All three would have beaten West German Rolf Danneberg's Olympic gold distance of 66.60 metres, had they performed at Los Angeles as they did here.

The men's javelin competition, touted by organisers as the battle of the day, was won by world record holder Uwe Hohn of East Germany with 93.16 metres, well under his best of 104.80.

Hohn, the first athlete to throw the javelin over 100 metres, was followed by fellow East German Detlev Michel, the world champion, with a toss of 91.38, and U.S. thrower Bob Roggi, 90.80.

Tom Petranoff of the U.S., robbed by Hohn of the record, came in a disappointing sixth with 82.66 metres.

Britain's Steve Cram provided a highlight of the day, with a spirited 1,500-metre run that improved on his Olympic silver performance at Los Angeles.

Cram clocked 3:33.13 minutes in Budapest, 0.27 seconds under his Los Angeles time, to edge Richie Harris of the U.S., 3:36.05, and Istvan Knappl of Hungary, 3:36.74.

Navratilova, Shriver take doubles title

MAHWAH, New Jersey (Agencies) — Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver captured the rain-delayed \$150,000 United States Bank classic doubles tennis title Monday, defeating Jo Durie and Ann Kiyomura-Hayashi, 7-6, 3-6, 6-2.

The victory came just one day after Navratilova defeated her doubles partner 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 to capture the singles title and post her 48th consecutive singles triumph.

It was the 64th straight doubles triumph for Navratilova and Shriver and 104 in 105 matches. The top-seeded team had won the first set, taking the tie-breaker, 7-3. The teams were tied 2-2 in the second set Sunday when rain forced postponement of the match until Monday.

Last year, Durie won the doubles title with Sharon Walsh. Meanwhile, Navratilova has been named the 1984 player of the year by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) for the third consecutive year and the fifth time in

the last seven years. The left-hander will receive the award at the WTA's seventh annual awards banquet in New York Aug. 27.

Navratilova, who has won the last five grand slam titles, also has been selected along with Shriver as doubles team of the year.

In balloting by the players, other winners were Kathy Jordan, most improved player; Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, most impressive newcomer; Kim Shaefer, player service award; and Marcela Mesker of the Netherlands, the Karen Krantzcke Sportsmanship Award.

FBI to probe alleged KGB link to Olympic mail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tests will be conducted on 33 racist letters mailed to Third World delegations at the Olympics to learn whether the hate-mail campaign was the work of the Soviet secret police, a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Monday.

Edgar Best, security director for the Los Angeles Olympic Organization Committee, said racist letters were sent about a month ago to delegation heads at the Olympic villages at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Best described them as "looking like the second generation" of letters — purportedly from the Ku Klux Klan, a white racist organisation based in the United States. The letters were sent to 20 African and Asian countries in early July.

Attorney General William French Smith has said that the FBI had determined the earlier letters were not mailed by the Klan but by the Soviet KGB.

The U.S. postal service turned 33 letters over the Federal authorities Friday in compliance with a court order sought by the FBI.

Ex-astronaut tries again to locate Noah's Ark

ANKARA (AP) — Former U.S. astronaut James Irwin says he will start his fourth climb of Mt. Ararat Wednesday in search of Noah's Ark.

"I am still hopeful to find the Ark because it is a big mountain and there are many areas we have not looked yet," Irwin told reporters Tuesday.

Irwin arrived in the Turkish capital Sunday and was to leave for remote Agri province late Tuesday. He is accompanied by three other climbers, Dick Bright, Irwin's son-in-law John Christianson, and a Turkish guide.

At a news conference here, Irwin said that he would stay on the mountain for a week and would search especially the west summit at 4877 metres where a Turkish guide had seen a wood-sinking from the ice last year.

"We will find out what kind of a wood it is and the age of it. The Turkish climbers did not search it further last year because they were only interested in climbing to the peak," Irwin explained.

Irwin, who spent three days on the moon during the Apollo 15 mission in 1971, fell from a glacier

after straying alone onto the dangerous northern face in his first attempt to find the ark in 1982.

"This year the weather conditions are very favourable in the area and we trust our efforts will be fruitful," Irwin said.

Irwin and a team of 20 other Americans had to cut short their searches on the mountain when weather conditions got worse last year.

Irwin said that he would continue his searches on the mountain until he finds something. "Always something new and interesting comes up right at the end and you get kind of 'ark-fever,'" he added.

Mt. Ararat (Agri Dag in Turkish) is located 30 kilometres from the Soviet frontier and the area was sealed off to foreigners in 1972 after Soviet complaints that expeditions in the past included intelligence agents seeking information on Soviet frontier facilities.

The Turkish government lifted the ban on foreign climbers in 1982. Following the decision, several climbers from the United States and Europe reached the 5,165 metre peak of Mt. Ararat.

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Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Israel disguises decline in reserves by accounting trick

TEL AVIV — Israel's central bank concealed the extent of a sharp drop in foreign reserves last month by adopting a new accounting method.

Amid charges of a major cover-up, a bank spokesman said that the July figure for reserves had been boosted by the new method by some \$325m.

The originally reported figures prompted concern because they showed reserves down by a record \$351m to just over \$2.6b. This is well below the \$3b needed to cover three months' imports of basic commodities and long regarded as the minimum working level.

In fact, the position was worse because for the first time the bank had included some funds privately held in Israel by foreigners and new immigrants in high-interest so-called "Patah" accounts.

This was on top of a regular bank practice of taking out overnight loans to boost reserves.

The disclosure, published in several local newspapers, seemed certain to damage further foreign

confidence about Israel's ability to haul its way out of a deep economic crisis and reduce its 400 per cent annual inflation rate.

When the July figures were first published, Mr. Moshe Mandelbaum, the bank governor, appealed to the government to cut local demand sharply, reduce public spending by \$1.5b and direct the country's resources towards exports.

Professor Eleizer Shefer, a former deputy governor of the bank, said the bank appeared to be making desperate attempts to overcome Israel's growing difficulty in raising foreign loans.

The political stalemate following last month's general election has added to the anxiety about Israel's delay in launching the austerity programme long urged by economists and bankers.

The country's foreign debt is now about £30b — one of the highest per capita in the world.

Negotiators from the Labour opposition and ruling Likud bloc, discussing whether to form a national unity coalition, reported

some progress in drawing up a joint economic policy.

Mr. Gad Yacobi, Labour's economic spokesman, said they had started drafting a joint document, while party differences on economic measures are not wide, the real stumbling blocks to the coalition concern foreign policy and the Jewish settlement drive in occupied Arab territory.

There has been little sign of compromise on these two fronts and it is still doubtful whether right-wing Likud members can bring themselves to serve under Labour leader Mr. Shimon Peres, the prime minister-designate.

The caretaker Likud government has meanwhile taken one small step to reduce inflation.

Despite trade union protests, it is not raising income tax thresholds this quarter.

This means that thousands of Israel workers, who have just received 10 per cent wage rises to keep up with inflation, will lose some of the increase to the taxman — *Financial Times*.

Argentina plans to cut inflation

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina Monday began drawing up a plan to halve its annual inflation rate of more than 600 per cent in line with an agreement reached with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), officials said.

IMF officials were expected to arrive Tuesday for a new round of talks on an economic austerity programme, a condition for the refinancing of the country's foreign debt of \$44 billion, they said.

President Raul Alfonsín announced over the weekend that the government would soon be asking Argentines to make an "important effort" to defeat speculation and inflation.

"We will begin in September with a new formula and all of us will struggle against inflation," Mr. Alfonsín said in a speech in the city of Paraná.

Mr. Alfonsín said his government had not had the success it desired in reducing inflation, which has risen to an annual 615 per cent from 433 per cent when he took office in December.

A spokesman for the economy ministry said Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun agreed in recent talks with the IMF to cut inflation to 300 per cent for the year beginning last June.

Mr. Grinspun also agreed to lower the budget deficit as a proportion of gross national product to 7.5 per cent from the 9.6 per cent proposed in Argentina's unilateral letter of intent to the IMF, the spokesman said.

Labour Minister Juan Casella said the government would begin halving wage rises on its estimate of inflation and that the increases would in no case exceed that figure.

Mr. Alfonsín, on the other hand, has pledged repeatedly that real wages would grow by six to eight per cent this year.

The IMF team is due to continue talks aimed at preparing a technical agreement to attach to Argentina's letter of intent.

Argentina's creditors refused to renew a \$125 million loan last week due to the lack of an agreement with the IMF.

Australia presents painless budget

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Labour government, with its eye on an early general election, Tuesday night tabled an annual budget aimed at wooing voters by cutting income tax and raising pensions and social benefits.

Most workers will pay nearly \$7 less tax a week as the 18-month-old Labour government fulfilled its tax pledge to the trade unions at a cost of more than \$1 billion in 1984/85.

Treasurer Paul Keating produced few surprises in the country's first televised budget address, stressing that Labour's strategy was to ensure that the strong economic recovery continued.

The mild budget, which political

analysts said would act as a springboard for the government's early election campaign, also sliced 1.2 billion dollars (\$1 billion) off the 1984/85 budget deficit as a further stimulus to growth.

The government set proposed spending at 63.9 billion dollars (\$53.6 billion) for the year ended June 30 1985 against revenue of 57.2 billion (\$48 billion) a deficit of 6.74 billion (\$5.7 billion).

Mr. Keating provided one un-

expected sting for Australia's drinkers with a new 10 per cent sales tax on previously untaxed wine which would bring in revenue of 62 million dollars (\$52 million).

But the government also recognised the growing popularity of low alcohol beer by reducing the cost of a can by three cents (2.5 U.S. cents).

Mr. Keating, who forecast a four per cent real growth rate in 1984/85, also announced a number of measures aimed at boosting business investment, including a tax concession to the mineral exploration industry.

Labour, which had sought to restrain spending by all government departments, lifted defence expenditure by more than three per cent in real terms to 5.82 billion dollars (\$4.9 billion).

Mr. Keating told a press conference later that the budget would have been the same with or without an imminent election.

The tax cuts were an integral part of the government's economic policy aimed at boosting consumer spending and underpinning the government's prices and incomes accord.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, it is fine to put your ideas across and to get others to go along with whatever plan of action you have in mind of a policy nature. Show affection.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Confer with partners and know exactly how to handle business affairs well, and then in the evening much happiness is possible.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early concentrate on telephone calls, deals, etc., that can start money rolling in quickly and allow others to assist you who are capable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have a fine opportunity in the morning to gain your own wishes where it is important that you do. Dress nicely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are thinking cleverly and can plan some activity that will gain you your fondest ambition. Try to please a friend.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) One who uses logic can help you to gain your desires in the morning; then you can be with an advisor and plan the future better.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find the right way to improve your career and get ahead faster, and then gain the assistance of good friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Find the various methods by which you can improve your status in life and get experts to help you gain your goals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be sure you know where you are going in business affairs, and then try to use more modern methods. Be happier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know what it is a nervous partner wants you to do to have more accord and try to please him or her.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are able to get certain tasks completed early; then you can contact outsiders for more activity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Early plan how you can please the one you love more and then carry through with ideas in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study the situation at home well and do whatever will improve conditions there. Solve that fundamental affair that arises early.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can study and learn too fast and then not retain much of whatever has been taught, so early teach to slow down some and be more concerned with practical matters and then can arrive at right conclusions. Contentment and good judgment will come in adulthood.

Sharp cut in OPEC's oil price could hurt more than help

By Stuart Diamond

NEW YORK — When the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cut its official oil price last year from \$34 a barrel to \$29, American consumers benefited. So did airlines, oil importers and energy-intensive industries such as steel and chemicals.

It was widely believed that the winners outstripped losers, which included oil-producing countries and companies. The world began to emerge from a recession and in many countries inflation slowed.

Now, however, many experts believe that sharp price cuts could hurt more than help.

Oil prices already have dropped in inflation-adjusted terms, so many of the benefits have already occurred. OPEC has found powerful support in Britain and the United States, where big banks

fear heavy losses if prices tumble. On the spot market for oil not sold under contract, prices have begun to firm. At \$28.50 a barrel, North Sea oil last week was up \$3 since July 30.

"Tremendous pressure is being brought to bear to maintain oil prices," said Mr. Eugene L. Nowak, a senior vice president at Dean Witter Reynolds, the investment broker.

Such pressures underlie the recent oil price seesaw, reflecting major changes in alliances and practices that have dominated the industry for a decade.

Inside OPEC, warring Iran and Iraq, and other countries such as Nigeria and Venezuela that have overspent heavily, need cash. They threaten the cartel's ability to enforce supply quotas and price levels championed by richer members, notably Saudi Arabia

and Kuwait. New export refinery capacity and official prices that favour exporters of some types of oil add to the tensions.

Washington, while not overtly supporting OPEC, is not fighting it either, analysts said.

Lower prices would cut billions of dollars of windfall profits taxes. Cheaper energy and synthetic fuels would suffer, as would programmes for conservation and to produce domestic oil using new technology. Lower oil prices would lead to greater long-term dependence on imported oil and thus risk a future price shock.

They also fear this would weaken Saudi Arabia, further destabilising the Middle East.

One pricing solution, an oil import tax, has been defeated in Congress.

— *New York Times*

UPI, union discuss wage cuts

NEW YORK (R) — United Press International (UPI) said Monday that it was holding talks with its union on measures that include cutting wages to make the company profitable by the fourth quarter of 1984. The American wire service said the proposed agreement included reducing the salaries of all staff and management for a period of not more than 13 months, after which they would be restored to current levels. UPI said the reduction would reduce its expenses sufficiently to enable it to reach a breakeven point within 30 days, and to make a profit for the first time in 20 years. UPI also said its permanent editorial work force would be reduced by about 40, with about 60 probationary and temporary staffers to be laid off. At the same time, UPI said the two sides were discussing various approaches to crediting employees with stock and offering them a greater say in company decisions.

Three Arab Gulf carriers agree to unify air tickets

JEDDAH Saudi Arabia (AP) — The three national carriers of the Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to issue a common ticket for travel between the main gateways of the six GCC countries, it was disclosed here Monday.

The carriers are Saudia, Kuwait Airways, and Gulf Air which is owned by the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The tickets bearing the logos of the three airlines will be accepted without endorsement on other GCC carriers flights, airlines sources said.

The move is designed to facilitate air travel for both GCC nations and expatriates, the sources said.

The six Arab Gulf states grouped in the GCC three years ago in quest of economic integration as well as collective defense.

The sources said the idea for the common ticket will be formally endorsed at the third session of the GCC executive committee for civil aviation and transport scheduled for Sept. 29 in Riyadh.

The idea of setting up a joint air cargo company will be discussed at a meeting to be held in London on Sept. 17-19 by the same committee, the sources said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed firmer after a fairly quiet day with interest centred on special situation stocks, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. 30 index was up 4.9 at 838.1 while at 1530 the F.T.-S.E. 100 index was up 8.1 at 1082.5.

Distillers was 10p firmer at 303p on bid speculation while BICC rose 15p to 238p but most other leading equities showed only small gains.

Dealers noted little actual buying interest with the firmer underpinned basically due to an initial mark-up reflecting the firmer close in New York.

Government bonds rose by up to 1/2 point while North Americans were firmer and gold eased in line with bullion.

Oils were firm with Premier Cons jumping to 74p from 60 1/2p after the bid from Carless Capel, which dropped 11p to 210p. B.P. and Britoil were up 3p while Shell added 1 1/2p at 62 1/2p and Tri-centrol rose 9p to 205p. Ultramar was up 5p at 238p.

Standard Chartered Bank dropped 2 1/2p to 467p, after 454p, following half yearly results, but other banks tended to rise a shade after Monday's gains, dealers said. Barclays and Lloyds were up 2p and 3p at 464p and 442p respectively.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.3134/44	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3017/20	Canadian dollars
	2.8823/33	West German marks
	3.2530/40	Dutch guilders
	2.4075/85	Swiss francs
	58.19/22	Belgian francs
	8.8475/8525	French francs
	1783.75/1784.75	Italian lire
	241.70/80	Japanese yen
	8.3575/3625	Swedish crowns
	8.2875/2925	Norwegian crowns
	10.5100/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	345.00/345.50	U.S. dollars

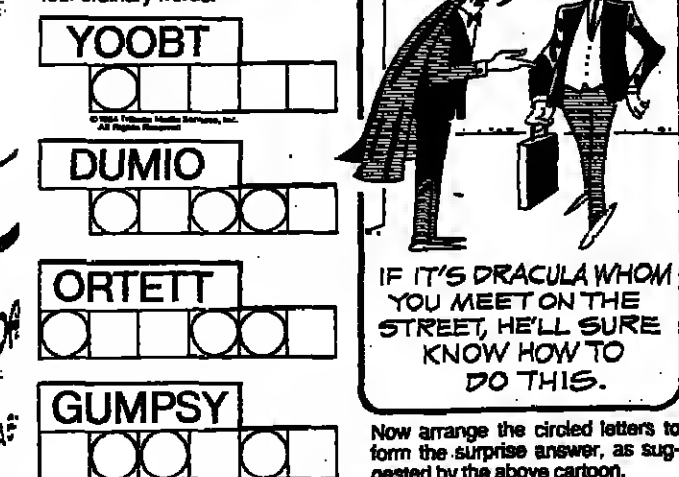
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: O O O O THE O O O O O O O O (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: KEYED CURIO VESTRY CALLOW
Answer: What you can expect a smart cookie to be — A WISE "CRACKER"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

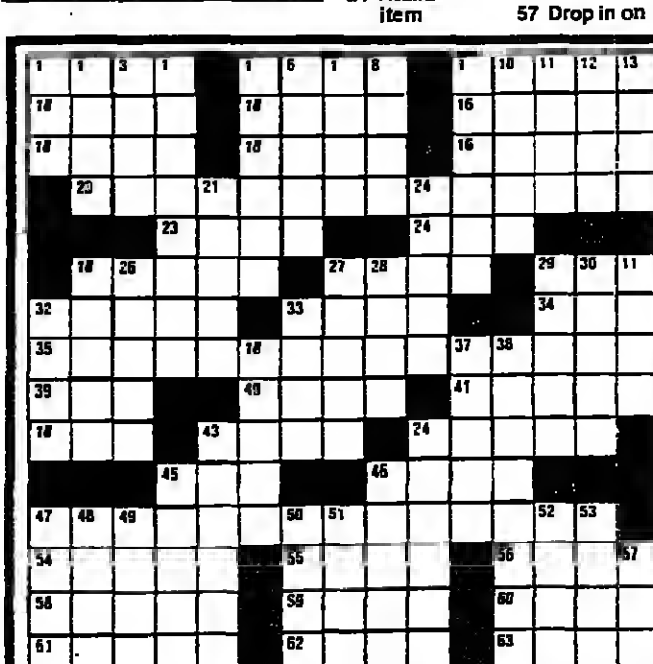


THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick

ACROSS	27 Comfortable	47 Fruit	22 Barbara's
1 Nattling	29 Uraeus	54 Monetary	25 Savage
5 En-dial	32 Tiny bit	55 Newspaper	26 Follow
9 Discard	33 Ship of	56 Promises	27 Entered
14 Other	34 myth	57 of a kind	28 Salad
15 ganus	35 502	58 Modify	29 plant
16 Coop	36 Tom's	59 Arab prince	30 Golliwogg
17 occupants	37 friend	60 Air. rivar	31 Good-bye,
18 Gr. philos-	38 Had food	61 Sanetly	32 Like aver-
19 Eskars	39 and drink	62 Moments,	33 Likas aver-
20 Circla	40 — majasty	63 Kind of	34 Unfreeze
21 parts	41 Relativa	64 Kind of	35 Help in
22 Clara'ta	42 Join	65 Kind of	36 Dramatist
23 eousin	43 Quantitas	66 Kind of	37 Riea
24 Headgear	44 abbr.	67 Kind of	38 For d. apart-
25 Hirt and	45 lban	68 Kind of	39 Linolaum,
26 High-	46 Yas —	69 Kind of	40 for axampla
rankars	47 ultimatm	70 Kind of	41 ones
	48 words	71 Kind of	42 Bowars
		72 Kind of	43 Land
		73 Kind of	44 measures
		74 Kind of	45 Of vision
		75 Kind of	46 Split tha
		76 Kind of	47 beans
		77 Kind of	48 Slowdown
		78 Kind of	49 Entr—
		79 Kind of	50 War god
		80 Kind of	51 A few
		81 Kind of	52 Str up
		82 Kind of	53 sediment
		83 Kind of	54 Holiday
		84 Kind of	55 lma
		85 Kind of	56 Drop in on

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:			biscuit	for example
MAKIE	ARIACIA	LONIA	5 Amulats	43 Inquisitive
ONIT	RIOMAN	ENO S	6 Rosamary	44 Bows
ONTHE	RIOMAN	ATILL	7 Formerly	45 Land
RESTI	CLASHES		8 Muscovy:	measures
ALSO	CLASHES		abbr.	46 Of vision
STAB	SIAC	SIERIE	9 With aggl-	fills
PIETIT	DOCA	AMINIO	10 Lobster	48 Blowdown
ETIOTIT	ENIO	STIER	laasturs	49 Entr-
REAF	BOUSTO	PZEE	11 Muselman	50 War god
WHERIE	RIOD		Shankar	51 A few
SIPHERIC	REMOVED		12 Solar disk	52 Str up
TIAR	OUTOPLAICE		13 Commaal	53 Holiday
ONCE	QUEDIO	TIRE	21 Attalar	lima
AKIS	SIEDER	SILUMI		



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Republicans set sights on slamming Mondale

DALLAS (R) — United and supremely confident, the Republican Party has begun its coronation-style celebration to renominate President Reagan with a fierce attack on his rival, Democrat Walter Mondale.

The only suspense as the Republicans entered the second day Tuesday of the carefully orchestrated nomination convention was what terms they might come up with next to deride Mr. Mondale.

On Monday, he was described as "a born loser" and "a man with nothing to offer a successful America."

President Reagan, who will not arrive in Dallas until Wednesday and is not due to appear at the convention until Thursday, was hailed as a saviour — a man whom keynote speaker U.S. Treasurer Katherine Ortega said had brought the country "from the shame of Tehran to the brave rescue of American students in Grenada."

She told the cheering 2,235 convention delegates: "We have come from the weak leadership of the Carter-Mondale administration to the strength of the Reagan-Bush administration."

Tuesday's agenda at the convention includes discussion and voting on the party's ultra-conservative platform for the Nov. 6 election battle against Mr. Mondale and a major speech from former president Gerald Ford.

At Monday's session, no speaker mentioned the financial troubles besetting Mr. Mondale's vice-presidential running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, but it was the number one topic at the convention centre following her announcement in Washington that she and her husband owed \$53,000 in back taxes.

Political leaders closest to the president, including Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, pinned the blame on Mr. Mondale for her troubles.

Mondale satisfied

In Minneapolis a top aide to Mr.

Mondale said Monday the Democratic presidential candidate believed the financial disclosures made by his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, and her husband showed they were both honest people who had done nothing to violate the public trust.

Campaign Chairman Jim Johnson also said Mr. Mondale believed the public would reach the same conclusion after examining the tax returns and other materials made public by Ms. Ferraro and her husband, John Zaccaro.

Ms. Ferraro released the financial information as the first step in an effort to end speculation about the income sources of Mr. Zaccaro, a wealthy real estate developer, and clarify whether she benefited in any improper way from his wealth.

Mr. Johnson told a news conference he did not believe that the row over the couple's finances, which has dominated the Democratic campaign for the White House for more than a week, had caused Mr. Mondale to lose any ground against President Reagan.

Earlier United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, a life-

long Democrat who works for Republican President Reagan, lambasted her party for presiding over the most humiliating period in U.S. history and for always blaming America when a crisis breaks out in the world.

"They always blame America first," she said several times in a speech on the opening night of the Republican convention.

As the 2,235 delegates in attendance roared their approval and screamed "Jeane, Jeane, Jeane," Ms. Kirkpatrick launched a bitter assault on the foreign policy platform of the Democrats, who met in San Francisco last month to nominate Mr. Walter Mondale as their presidential candidate.

"When the San Francisco Democrats treat foreign affairs as an afterthought, as they did, they behaved less like a dove or a hawk than like an ostrich — convinced it could shut out the world by hiding its head in the sand," she said.

She said former Democratic President Jimmy Carter's administration, in which Mr. Mondale served as vice president, marked "the most humiliating episode in our national history."

New U.S. manoeuvres begin in C. America

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Nearly 200 United States Army Green Beret troops began a new counter-insurgency exercise in Honduras Monday, extending the pattern of American manoeuvres aimed at demonstrating U.S. support of friendly Central American governments.

The Pentagon announced that "several detachments" from the 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Gulick, Panama, are in the exercise, which will include a parachute drop near Palmero Air Base.

The exercise, named Lempira, will continue for the rest of this month and will feature operations with three battalions of the Honduran army in mountainous areas west and south west of Comayagua.

"Honduran and U.S. par-

ticipants will operate in small groups as they gain experience in counter-insurgency skills under combined operating conditions," the announcement said.

The new exercise is the second in a series which began in July. Earlier U.S. manoeuvres have been held off and on for more than 18 months.

Meanwhile President Roberto Suazo Cordova of Honduras Monday named four new cabinet ministers and changed key economic officials in a shakeup diplomats said was chiefly aimed at curing the country's ailing economy.

A government announcement read over the radio said Miguel Orellana Maldonado had been named minister of economy and Manuel Fontecha, a former vice president of the Central Bank, minister of finance.

'Islamabad, Kabul eager for Afghanistan solution'

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have expressed strong determination to try to reach a speedy solution to the Afghan problem, the chief United Nations negotiator between the two nations said Monday.

"What they both tell me is that they are both very determined to try to reach an agreement as soon as possible. They both have, I suppose, tremendous difficulties, but this is what they tell me," Under-Secretary General Diego Cordovez told reporters before leaving for a new round of talks in Geneva with the foreign ministers of the two sides.

The talks, which began more than two years ago, focus on efforts to secure the withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet troops who entered Afghanistan in December 1979 and are the mainstay of Kabul's Babrak Karmal government.

Another aim is to secure the voluntary repatriation of more

than three million Afghan refugees now in Pakistan and Iran. Although the Soviet Union is not directly involved in the negotiations, Mr. Cordovez said Moscow had given "very categorical assurances of support" for the U.N.'s peace-making efforts when he visited the Soviet capital with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar last month.

He said that although there was "tremendous distrust" between the two parties to the talks, there was determination and good faith on both sides to make progress.

Mr. Cordovez said he now hoped to be able to focus on what he called the crucial issues, such as the question of international guarantees for both sides against outside interference.

"The underlying rationale is that if those issues are settled, all the others will fall into place," he added.

Mr. Cordovez said he expected to hold separate informal talks with the Afghan and Pakistani foreign ministers on Thursday.

Indian police open fire against strikers

HYDERABAD, India (R) — At least one person was killed Tuesday when police opened fire to disperse demonstrators during a strike called to protest against the sacking of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao.

Police said they opened fire when a crowd attacked a bus station at Shamshabad, about 30 kilometres from the Andhra Pradesh state capital of Hyderabad.

Shooting also was heard in Hyderabad, a city of three million people, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The strike in Andhra Pradesh, India's fifth largest state, shut most shops and kept buses and taxis off the roads. Trains came to a virtual standstill including services passing through the region to other destinations in India.

In New Delhi, Mr. Rama Rao, who is in a wheelchair while recovering from a heart operation, led 162 state parliamentarians to a meeting with Indian President Zail Singh to demonstrate his support in the 295-seat legislature.

Andhra Pradesh Governor Ram Lal dismissed Mr. Rama Rao last Wednesday, saying defections from the former film star's Telugu

Desam (land of the Telugus) Party left him without a majority.

Mr. Rao, who returned from open heart surgery in the United States the day before his sacking, left in an ambulance after the meeting.

"The president said he will see justice done," he told Reuters.

Mr. Rama Rao has said Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was behind his sacking as part of plans to displace state governments not ruled by her Congress (I) Party to give it a power base to fight national elections within the next five months.

But Mrs. Gandhi told parliament Tuesday she was not consulted by Governor Ram Lal about his decision to install Mr. Rama Rao's Finance Minister, Bhaskara Rao, as chief minister.

Mrs. Gandhi, who sent Mr. Rama Rao a bouquet of flowers Monday night, said the matter could be decided only by a test of strength in the Andhra Pradesh State Parliament.

Mr. Rama Rao's dismissal has united India's opposition parties unlike any other issue since Mrs. Gandhi swept back to power in 1980.

Shultz says world knows America can be trusted

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Monday that President Reagan has acted to restore United States leadership abroad by demonstrating "that America can be trusted to confront challenges, not wish them away."

Mr. Shultz said Communism is retreating around the world, and declared that "the world's future is a future of freedom." He cited what he described as American success in turning back a Communist threat in Central America.

"Our policies are working," he said in a prepared speech in Chicago that coincided with the opening of the Republican National Convention in Dallas, where Mr. Reagan is expected to be renominated for a second term as president.

"Gradually, but inevitably, Communist aggression is losing the contest," Mr. Shultz said.

Mr. Shultz addressed the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The text of Mr.

Shultz's speech was released here. In Eastern Europe, "time is not on the side of imperial domination," Mr. Shultz said in a reference to the Soviet Union.

Echoing a statement Mr. Reagan made last week, Mr. Shultz said the United States will never accept the idea of a divided Europe. He said the nations of Eastern Europe may not regain their freedom in his or his children's lifetime "but someday it will happen."

The secretary said: "In the past four years, this nation has taken the essential steps to restore its leadership of the free world." "Our pride in our country gives us strength to lead abroad," he said.

Mr. Shultz cited what he described as U.S. successes in Latin America, Europe and Asia, but he omitted mention of the Middle East or Lebanon. He did refer to "obstacles and occasional setbacks" to American interests abroad.

Hitler diaries trial opens

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — A West German investigative reporter and a dealer in Nazi memorabilia went on trial here Tuesday charged with concocting and selling a set of forged diaries attributed to Adolf Hitler.

The trial of the journalist, Gerd Heidemann, 52, and the dealer, Konrad Kujau, 45, is expected to last several months.

The court was adjourned for two hours after the judges rejected a defence plea that Mr. Heidemann was denied a fair trial because he had been prejudged and pilloried in the press.

Mr. Heidemann's lawyer, Reinhard Daum, asked for the recess to give him time to consider his next strategy after the appeal was turned down.

More than 100 people, mainly reporters, crammed into a small court room of the Hamburg State

Civil Court as 4,000 pages of prosecution documents were wheeled in on hand carts.

Mr. Heidemann looked grim and withdrawn before proceedings opened while Mr. Kujau, relaxed and smiling, chatted with reporters.

Mr. Kujau is accused of the actual forging of 60 volumes of the diaries over a two-year period.

Mr. Heidemann is accused of making up a story about the diaries being found in the wreckage of a plane at the end of World War II and selling them to Stern magazine for over nine million marks (\$3.2 million).

Mr. Kujau told reporters he became interested in the Nazi dictator while at an orphanage with Hitler's nephew. Asked if he was prepared to forge another set of diaries Mr. Kujau joked "of course, I've got to make a living."



Demonstrators participating in an anti-Reagan rally in Dallas carry a banner reading 'Retire Ronald Reagan', prior to the opening of the Republican Convention (AP wirephoto)

Black Muslim leader says Reagan, Mondale bow to Jewish lobby

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Black Muslim Leader Louis Farrakhan Monday accused both President Reagan and Walter Mondale of having bowed to the Jewish lobby.

He was speaking to a crowded meeting at the U.N. Correspondents Club after attending a lunch given by the American Arab Relations Committee.

Referring to Mr. Reagan and his Democratic presidential rival, Mr. Farrakhan said: "Neither of these two men seems to show the will, the strength or the vision to keep America safe in the next four years... both these men absolutely bow down to the strength of the Jewish lobby."

Responding to a question about the forthcoming presidential elections, he added: "When your leaders will bow down like that... I call them very weak and ineffectual and I would not vote for either one unless I saw the strength to resist when resistance is proper."

The American people need to "gain better control" of their politicians and government, he said.

"For if the policies of this government can be manipulated by so few people whose desires are, at best, selfish, then the American people will be dragged into the Third World War, and the Middle East is the trigger to set off the global conflict between America and Russia."

Mr. Farrakhan's remarks about Jews and Israel raised a furor earlier this year because of his friendship with former presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson.

He denied Monday he was anti-semitic, saying: "As a Muslim, I could never condemn the revealed word of God to Israel through any prophet, for the revealed word of God is pure because

it is holy, undefiled and unimpaired with. So I could never condemn Judaism as a religion."

He did, however, condemn "the practice of lying, stealing, murder, deceit and using God's name as a cover for unclean practices."



Louis Farrakhan

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He did, however, condemn "the practice of lying, stealing, murder, deceit and using God's name as a cover for unclean practices."

U.S. Navy ships may call at Shanghai

PEKING (R) — China appears ready to allow United States warships to make a port call at Shanghai sometime next year, cementing growing military ties between Washington and Peking, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

The non-American diplomats, who spoke on condition they were not identified, said this could be one of the concrete results of the visit to China of U.S. Navy Secretary John Lehman, who is now on a tour of Chinese naval facilities.

It would be the first time since the birth of Communist China in 1949 that U.S. warships had entered a Chinese port and would symbolise the budding military relationship between the two powers on either side of the Pacific.

A U.S. embassy spokesman declined comment, saying he could not go beyond a statement

issued Monday which said Mr. Lehman's talks had laid the foundation for technical cooperation between the two navies, including exchange visits and talks between their naval staffs.

Mr. Lehman, who arrived here last Wednesday from Pakistan, began his tour of Chinese ports Monday after talks with Naval Chief Liu Huaqing, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang and Defence Minister Zhang Aiping.

The U.S. embassy spokesman said Mr. Lehman was visiting the ports of Dalian, Qingdao and Shanghai before returning to Washington next Saturday.

Western and Asian diplomats said the prospect of units of the U.S. Seventh Fleet cruising into Shanghai would be likely to cause a further strain in Sino-Soviet relations and could act as a brake on Peking's final agreement to the move.

The Kremlin has already voiced its concern about Peking's steadily increasing military links with the United States, heralded by U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's visit to Peking last September and Mr. Zhang's arms-buying expedition to Washington in June.

Moscow abruptly cancelled a visit to Peking by First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov immediately after President Reagan's China tour in April.

Both China and the United States have been worried by the growing Soviet naval presence in the Pacific and the South China Sea as well as the use of the Vietnamese port of Cam Ranh Bay by Soviet ships, the diplomats said.

They said China, with increased oil exploration along its coast, would like to boost its naval strength.

31 injured in Miami cruise ship fire

MIAMI, Florida (AP) — Some of the 738 people aboard a docking cruise ship panicked and knocked people over trying to flee a smoky fire that injured 31 people before fire-fighters brought it under control Tuesday, officials and passengers said.

The fire was reported on board the Scandinavian Sun at 11:16 p.m. Monday (0316 GMT Tuesday), and was reported out at 12:20 a.m. (0420 GMT), said Miami Fire Department spokeswoman Christine Hickman.

But Miami Fire Chief Ken McCullough said later, "We're not sure if it's out yet. There aren't

any flames but the heat is incredible. We don't know if it's just the steel holding the heat, though."

The ship's captain, Finn Hansen, said the fire began in an auxiliary engine room shortly after the ship docked. The cause of the blaze was an electrical malfunction in a transformer in the engine room, Mr. McCullough said.

A sister ship, the Scandinavian Sea, burned for days at Port Canaveral in March after a blaze started in a cabin and spread through several passenger decks.

Passengers said they first saw smoke and flames Monday as the 134 metre ship docked at the end of a one-day cruise to Grand Bahama Island.

"Smoke just started billowing out. The main hold was full of smoke. The whole lower deck was full of smoke," said Connie Danluck of Miami, who went on the cruise with her two young daughters.

There were 537 passengers and 201 crew members aboard the ship, owned by Miami-based Scandinavian World Cruises, said Coast Guard Capt. Rene Roussel.

Aquino's murder anniversary marked

MANILA (R) — About 2,000 armed soldiers and police Tuesday ringed the Philippines Presidential Palace as thousands turned out on the streets for a mass rally marking the anniversary of the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

At a special memorial service, the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, called for forgiveness and national reconciliation.

"We must be reconciled through an act of forgiveness," he said. "We must be reconciled with those who killed, with those who pillaged, with those who assaulted. From the national leadership, a complementary response is expected and even demanded."

About 5,000 people packed the church in north Manila and surrounding area for the service for Sen. Aquino, who was shot last Aug. 21 on his return to the Philippines after three years voluntary exile in the United States.

The congregation included his widow, Corazon Aquino, their six children, his mother and other

members of his family. Police and the metropolitan army command have been put on full alert in case of trouble, although rally organisers have promised no violence. They expect a turnout of at least one million for the rally.

Security precautions included barbed wire barricades, police and heavily armed regular soldiers, some in jungle combat uniform, on approach roads to the Presidential Palace.

Many shops and offices and most schools were closed. Yellow bunting — a colour identified with the anti-government protest movement — draped from windows and from the radio antennas of cars, buses and lorries.

But there were few police on the streets as thousands of people, many wearing yellow tee shirts, marched into central Manila from outside the city, including the airport.

An Aviation Security Command spokesman said a home-made bomb went off early Tuesday near the airport but no one was hurt and the suspected

bomb-thrower escaped. Col. Romeo Ochoco said the device went off near trees and caused no damage.

The Customs Department said President Ferdinand Marcos had authorised the release without duty or taxes of a life-size statue of Sen. Aquino sent by his supporters in the United States and a centrepiece of the rally.

Corazon Aquino, who also spoke at the church service, said shock and sorrow had filled her life.

"The past year has been a year of justice delayed, of courage and of sacrifice. It was also a year of partial victories against heavy odds," she said.

Sen. Aquino was shot as he was being escorted from a plane by military guards. His murder is still unsolved.

The military said he was killed by Rolando Galman, whom they identified as a Communist gunman and who was himself shot by security guards on the airport tarmac. An official panel is expected to issue a report soon on the murder.

COLUMN

Fahd urges students to marry Saudi girls

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia wants his country's students abroad to marry Saudi girls. He says they believe in God and are as beautiful as any others. Addressing a student group in the Red Sea city of Jeddah Monday night, the king said: "The Saudi girl is no less qualified than others... she believes in God to whom she carries out her duties. So why should one look (for a wife) abroad?" the official Saudi Press Agency reported. Saudi girls "have no problems with their morals or virtues... They are no less beautiful than women in any other part of the world, but good looks are not everything," he said.

'Count' went far on false title

AARHUS, Denmark (AP) — With empty pockets but the impressive alias "Count Mogens Schackenberg Von Rewentlow," a 28-year-old Danish welfare recipient managed to con his way into a world of wealth and travel. And into jail, too. A judge put him behind bars Tuesday for 15 months, guilty of 22 counts of fraud and falsifying documents. Benny Leon Rewentlow — the name he took when he discarded his original name Christensen — stuck to his pinstripe suit, umbrella and attache case as he stood trial in Denmark's second largest city, originally on 27 fraud counts. He admitted using the fictitious name to pass himself off as Lord of Bjorholm Manor — he in fact did live in the country estate.

Khrushchev's wife dies at 84

MOSCOW (R) — Nina Petrovna Khrushchev, widow of the late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, has died in Moscow at the age of 84, a Communist Party official said Tuesday. Nina Petrovna died after long illness on the night of Aug. 8-9 and was buried in Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow alongside her husband, who was ousted in 1964. A brief death notice inserted by the local city Communist Party branch in the Moscow evening newspaper Vechernyaya Moskva on Aug. 11 had referred to her under her maiden name "Kukharichuk", and described her as a "personal pensioner."

Taxi driver dies in dancer's arms

JAKARTA (R) — A 58-year-old taxi driver died of heart failure in the arms of a dancing girl during independence celebrations in Bogor City south of here, hospital sources said Tuesday. The driver leapt on to the stage and joined in the sensual "jaipongan", in which the dancers move slowly around together, for almost half an hour before he collapsed with a heart attack, they said.

Actress arrested on adultery charge

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's best known film and television actress, Chong Yun-Hi, and a Seoul businessman have been arrested on adultery charges, police said Tuesday. Miss Chong is known for playing naive, innocent roles and fans said they were shocked by her arrest. Police said the wife of businessman Cho Kyu-Yong, 38, complained to the authorities about his alleged adultery with the 30-year-old Miss Chong. Adultery becomes a criminal offence in South Korea only when the spurned spouse files an official complaint. The maximum sentence is two years in jail.

Trotskyists dumps coal outside Thatcher's residence

ZURICH (R) — Young Swiss Trotskyists dumped a pile of coal outside the holiday home of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Lake Zug near here Monday night, police said Tuesday. The demonstrators told reporters the action was intended to remind Mrs. Thatcher of striking coal miners in Britain. Mrs. Thatcher arrived Monday from Austria to spend part of her summer holiday at the home of Lady Glover, the widow of a British Conservative politician.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K93 ♠K865 ♠10763 ♠85
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K9 ♠962 ♠Q1087 ♠A654
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♣ Double Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K10763 ♠J652 ♠J ♠A98
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 NT
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠96 ♠AQ1095 ♠Q72 ♠654
Partner opens the bidding with one trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q9 ♠10763 ♠KQ6 ♠Q852
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q8 ♠KQ652 ♠Q8542 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?